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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI government's compliance with the Open Government Act?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Rota Cleanup

After 26 years, a vessel that was shipwrecked on a reef just north of Tatqua Beach on Rota was disposed of.

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Huge Hugh

Hugh Jackman relied on his Wolverine alter ego to pack on muscle for the "X-Men" role.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 28

WHO raises alert level to 5; still no cases in NMI. PAGE 3
429 Tinian families are granted homestead lots. PAGE 5

$250 STIMULUS CHECKS OUT THIS MONTH

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue has informed CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan that the $250 economic recovery payments will reach the Northern Marianas this month.

Sablan

"We estimate that we will be sending your constituents $0.6 million in recovery payments," wrote Astrue.

See $250 on Page 4

FY08 posts lowest spending per student in last 15 years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI government spent a measly $3,182 per student in Fiscal Year 2008, the lowest ever spending per public school student in the last 15 years, from 1994 to 2008.

The annual report, released yesterday by the Public School System, showed that the CNMI government allocated the highest amount in 1997, at $4,629 per student.

In FY 1994, the government, using local funds, allocated just $3,681 per child; climbing to $3,774 in 1995; and then down to $3,667 the year after.

PSS per child cost hit its peak in 1997 and 1998, at $4,629 and $4,553 respectively.

In FY 1999, PSS was appropriated a

See FY08 on Page 4

WHEN WILL THIS BE CLEANED UP? HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The environmental and safety hazards posed by these leaking drums of used oil have yet to be cleaned up years after getting the attention of the Division of Environmental Quality and other regulatory agencies. The leaking drums, photographed yesterday afternoon, are at the site of the long defunct former Solid Builders, north of the Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.

PAWS is not shutting down, at least for now

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Katie Busenkell, standing right, president of the Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, addresses PAWS members and interested volunteers during a no-host meeting at Coffee Care on Capital Hill yesterday noon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A last-ditch effort to save the Pet Assistance and Welfare Services paid off with additional volunteers signing up yesterday, but advocates say the government should also do its part by enforcing a longtime animal leash law and passing an anti-animal cruelty bill.

See PAWS on Page 4

All set for today's May Day rally

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Organizers of today's May Day rally expect at least a thousand participants who will support the call for an improved immigration status for alien workers, immediate relatives of U.S. and Freely Associated States citizens and other categories of nonresidents during the federalization transition period.

The peaceful rally will start at 6pm at the Garapan Fishing Base, to be fol-

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Local

SUPPORTING THE HUMANITIES

Yun (Alex) Kim, president and CFO of Saipan Laulau Development Inc., presents a $5,000 check to NMI Council for the Humanities board chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera. Also pictured from left are Council executive director Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero, Council board member MaryLou S. Ada, and Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. vice president and general manager Tetsuya Matsunaga. The Council will use the donation to support its public humanities programs and educational initiatives.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Liberation Day pageant open to all nationalities

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

For the first time in four years, the search for Liberation Queen 2009 will be opened to all ethnicities, according to the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Tony A. Benavente, the organizing committee's public information officer, said application forms for the annual pageant may now be picked up at the Mayor's Office.

Interested candidates should look for Rose T. Ada or call her at 287-0818.

"We would like to invite all women of different nationalities, be it Korean, Chinese, Filipino, American, Palauan, FSM, Japanese, Chamorro, and others," Benavente said.

Tudela

The contest was opened to all women of different ethnic backgrounds in 2004 and 2005.

Benavente said at least three women have already expressed their intent to vie for the title of Liberation Day Queen.

"We are still looking for candidates. There is no maximum number of applications but they must meet the age requirement of 15 to 20 and the deadline," said Benavente.

The deadline of submission of entries will be on May 29.

Kaylynn Lizama Sablan was crowned the 2008 Liberation Queen, then a 16-year-old Kagman High School student, who bested three other contestants by selling more than 5,000 tickets to win the crown.

Liberation Day activities had been set for June 6 to July 6 at the Garapan Fishing Base fronting Kristo Rai Church.

Before that there will be a kickoff ceremony on June 5.

Mayor Juan B. Tudela has been designated as the Grand Marshall for this year's Liberation Day activities.

"This will be a tribute to the end of his two terms in office as Mayor of Saipan and being the Grand Marshall will be one of the highlights of the event," Benavente said.

The application form for booth concessions at the festival grounds are also available for pick up at the Governor's Office. Interested vendors may look for Angel Hocog.

"We are anticipating a total of 30 booths this time," Benavente said.

One of the biggest attractions in the annual festivities is the mini-gambling events such as dice and color games.

Benavente said they are still waiting for the Attorney General's Office to allow them to include these games in the program.

Navy Rear Adm. William D. French of the U.S. Naval Forces in the Marianas has been invited to deliver the keynote address during the actual day of celebration on July 4.

Inos confirmation hearing today

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Senate will vote today on whether to confirm Finance Secretary Eloy Inos as the next lieutenant governor of the CNMI.

The public is invited to testify before the Senate about the appointment. The body will take that into account when making a decision, Senate President Pete Reyes said. The hearing is scheduled for 9am today in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

Inos

Gov. Benigno Fitial submitted Inos' name to the Senate on Monday.

Under the CNMI Constitution, whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of Lieutenant Governor, the governor must appoint a successor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The position is currently vacant after Timothy P. Villagomez resigned from the office last Saturday, after he was found guilty of charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

It has been decided that Inos must meet the same requirements as other Senate appointments. He must disclose his financial background and submit to a drug test, Reyes said.

The Senate president earlier said he fully supports Inos as lieutenant governor.

Fitial, in his appointment letter, said he believes Inos will do well as the next lieutenant governor of the CNMI.

If and when the Senate confirms Inos as the new lieutenant governor, Fitial will make a new appointment to the position of Finance secretary, said Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office.

WHO raises alert level to 5; still no cases in NMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Pubic Health assured the public that it is doing everything it can to help prevent the spread of the swine flu virus, even as the World Health Organization raised the worldwide pandemic alert level from Phase 4 to 5 in a span of 24 hours due to the growing number of infections of the H1N1 virus.

DPH said a phase 5 alert means there are larger clusters of the virus but person-to-person spread is still localized.

This could mean the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans but may not yet be fully transmissible.

DPH reassured the public that no cases have been identified in the CNMI at this time.

"As of today, 91 cases of swine flu had been confirmed in the U.S. with one confirmed death, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The confirmed U.S. cases are in Arizona, California, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, and New York City. Swine flu infections are increasing in numbers internationally and include Austria, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, United Kingdom, and Israel," said the news update released by the DPH yesterday.

Member agencies of the Pandemic Flu Committee met early this week to update the swine flu situation and activate plans to mitigate flu transmission in the CNMI.

"This is a situation where we must all be on the alert," said DPH Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez.

"We have ramped up surveillance and we have activated our Emergency Operations Plan for Pandemic Influenza. We also have implemented our Influenza-A testing program on all our clinics including Tinian and Rota."

DPH said it has provided rapid flu test kits to Marianas Health Center and Medical Associates of the Pacific Clinics on Saipan through the Bioterrorism and Pandemic Flu Program.

Patients seen at public health clinics and the two private clinics that have high fever, cough or sore throat are tested using the rapid flu test.

DPH said that extra precautions are being taken in screening for the flu because there's no way of determining if a person has the swine flu without laboratory confirmation off-island.

"The global concern is that the swine flu outbreak could become a pandemic, or an infection that spreads across a large region or worldwide," DPH said.

It said that a pandemic usually occurs every 30 to 40 years and there has not been a flu pandemic in more than 40 years. "The concern with the swine flu virus is that this is a completely new flu virus and people don't have antibodies or resistance to fight it, DPH explained.

Accordingly, there is no vaccine for the swine flu although antivirals are available to treat it.

Immigration training next week

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. and Guma Esperansa - Karidat are partnering together to offer a two-day training session related to the impending federalization law in the CNMI for attorneys, paralegals and victim service providers.

CONTACT INFO
Lauri Ogumoro: 323-5066
or lauri@pticom.com

The organizations are hosting the training, titled "Preparing for the Transition to U.S. Immigration Law," on Monday and Tuesday in the Napu room of the Pacific Islands Club.

Public Law 110-229 will go into effect Nov. 28, extending U.S. immigration laws to the Commonwealth.

Peggy Gleason, an attorney for the Catholic Legal Immigration Network out of Washington D.C., and Professor Evangeline Abriel of Santa Clara University in California will present the two-day training. A guest speaker from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has also been invited.

Topics covered at the training will include family based immigration in the U.S. under the preference and immediate relative categories; T and U visas for immigrant victims of domestic violence and crime; and an overview of immigration and removal proceedings, according to the event's announcement.

"The training will aim to provide an overview of these topics, and provide resources for further research and education once the transition takes effect," the announcement said.

Space is limited to 90 participants.

For more information, contact Lauri Ogumoro at Guma Experansa/Karidat at 323-5066 or lauri@pticom.com.

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Teppan-Yaki Dinner Course
inclusive of Soup/Salad/Main Course/Dessert
free flowing Wine/Sodas/Ice Tea
Mother's Day Gift and Raffle Drawing
$40.00 adult / $20.00 child
6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm
San Roque Club Welcome
20% Local Discount Applicable
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Mother's Day Specials
Sunday, May 10th

Mother's Day Brunch
inclusive of
Mother's Day Gift / 1-Free Family Photo / Raffle Drawing
for a chance to win a Exciting Prizes!!!
$30.00 adult / $15.00 child
11:00 am ~ 2:00 pm
San Roque Club Welcome
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Access to Pool
1-Free Family Photo
Minami

Teppan-Yaki Dinner Course
inclusive of Soup/Salad/Main Course/Dessert
free flowing Wine/Sodas/Ice Tea
Mother's Day Gift and Raffle Drawing
$40.00 adult / $20.00 child
San Roque Club Welcome
20% Local Discount Applicable
KAENJI

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US Army to build training facility at Marpi range

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Army will build a new training facility and improve the Department of Public Safety's existing shooting range in San Juan, Marpi at no cost to the CNMI government.

"All expenses to build the facility and other developments in the area will be shouldered by the U.S. Army. We expect construction to begin either in late May or early June," CNMI range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro told Saipan Tribune in a phone interview.

The U.S. Army 9th Regional Readiness Command from Hawaii led by Col. Joh Lee signed a memorandum of agreement with DPS led by commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and Ogumoro.

Witnesses to the MOA signing included Brigadier Gen. John Ma and former Judge Edward Manibusan, who is the CNMI civilian aide to the secretary of the Army.

The MOA will allow the U.S. Army Reserve stationed on Saipan to begin using the DPS training facility in San Juan, Marpi, thereby reducing expenditure for the Army Reserve.

Tudela, in a statement, expressed gratitude for the agreement with the U.S. Army, saying the CNMI law enforcement will also benefit from the range improvement and saving the local government cost on the needed improvement in the facility.

The three-phase construction includes a training facility for the M203 practice grenade lounger, M16/M4 rifle range, and M249/M240 bravo machine gun range, along with a three-storey control tower and a close combat quarter for tactical training. Ogumoro said the project also includes an area for a pistol range.

"The U.S. Army will spend significant amount for the construction and improvement of the range," DPS said in a statement.

Ogumoro also thanked Major Sablan, the liaison between the U.S. Army and DPS, as well as DPS firearm instructor Dave Hosono for coordinating the range operation.

In separate news, the CNMI Crime Stoppers will be holding its annual school presentations next week, according to DPS public information officer Eric David.

The schedules are as follows: Chacha Junior High School cafeteria for eighth graders only (May 5, 8:30 a.m.); Hopwood Junior High School (May 5, 10am); Kagman High School cafeteria (May 6, 8:30am); Saipan Southern High School cafeteria (May 7, 9am); and Marianas High School (May 8, 10am)

For more information, contact Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason T. Tarkong at 664-9026 or 664-9001.

A Police Week proclamation signing will also be held at the Governor's Conference Room on Tuesday at 10am.

ALL SET

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lowed by a march to the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

Rabby Syed and Ronnie Doca, president and board chair, respectively, of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said their list of speakers now includes former Gov. Juan N. Babauta and his running mate in the November elections, Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Other guests are Rep. Tina Sablan, Ed Propst, Ron Hodges, lawyer Steve Woodruff, and Simon Sin.

"The United Workers Movement-NMI invites everyone to come and join tomorrow's events to make a unified voice, to ask the feds to look into our situation and give us improved status," said Doca.

Syed yesterday reiterated that they timed the rally ahead of the May 19 oversight hearing by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife on the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI.

The United Workers Movement-NMI wants protection for nonresidents during the transition period and a pathway to permanent immigration status.

The group listed 11 specific objectives, including influence the federalization process, revise Public Law 110-220 or the federalization law, stabilize the workforce, free labor market, benefits for business and workers, and equal treatment of local and foreign workers.

Also on the list are reform of the CNMI labor and immigration system, provide a remedy for those the system has failed, protect families and children, recognize years of service and contributions to the community, and rebuild the CNMI economy.

Syed and Doca said they have concluded their preparations for today's rally, including making banners and streamers.

They said the Coalition of United Workers led by Rene Reyes has also thrown their support to the rally. Also joining the May Day rally are Dekada, Human Dignity Movement, Pilcowa, and the Chinese, Bangladeshi, Nepalese and Korean communities.

Meanwhile, the Coalition of United Workers, NMI (USA) is inviting the community to a barbecue potluck on Sunday, May 3, 9am-6pm at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion on Beach Road.

The group's officials—Reyes, president; Uno Cambronero vice president; Regie Diesta, chairperson; and board member Kabir Hossan—said the get-together is intended to unite different individuals, whether from a workers group, citizens or non-citizens of the CNMI, employees (private and government), advocates, supporters or non-supporters of U.S. Public Law 110-229 and family with their kids.

"Let us talk and come up with a common interest. It's time to work together with one vision, a vision that benefit not only the workers, the businesses but also the whole community. This is for the people of the CNMI," they said.

The group has invited some prominent individuals who have knowledge of local and federal laws, workers' advocates, and supporters who are very vocal in workers rights.

"We will have a short question and answer program to educate and help us understand what the federal law brings to us and what our status will be when federalization is implemented," they said.

The coalition said it will join the May 1 event at the Garapan Fishing Base.

May Day, which occurs on May 1, is synonymous with International Workers' Day or Labor Day, which celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement.

PAWS

From Page 1

"Tentatively, it looks like we're still in business," PAWS president Katie Busenkell told *Saipan Tribune* during yesterday's no-host meeting at Coffee Care on Capital Hill to recruit more members.

Busenkell and PAWS treasurer Bobbi Grizzard hope all the 18 who signed up as additional volunteers will make good on their promise to help PAWS continue its programs and services.

PAWS is the only non-profit animal welfare organization in the CNMI since 1993.

Over 20 individuals, including PAWS members, showed up at the meeting and the group expects to have more volunteers in the days ahead.

PAWS earlier said the group was reduced to three board members and fewer than 30 general members.

"We cannot continue to operate with so few active volunteers. The demand for help is too much for three people to handle alone. So, the board has decided that if fewer than 15 people attend the meeting on the 30th, we will be forced to dissolve the organization," Busenkell earlier said.

Yesterday, PAWS felt relieved, albeit tentatively, that more than 15 signed up as volunteers.

Slow to act

Busenkell said the government has not been enforcing its animal leash law and lawmakers have been sitting on an anti-animal cruelty bill introduced early last year.

Rep. Stanley Torres introduced House Bill 16-13 or the Animal Protection Act of 2008 on Feb. 11, 2008, but the bill has yet to be acted on. It aims to prohibit the cruel treatment and theft of animals and provide penalty for such acts.

"Animal control or animal law in general helps facilitate a productive society…Tourism, property values and public health are affected by a lack of animal control and so even if you are not an animal lover, somehow you are being affected by the failure to control the animal population," Busenkell said, adding that this alone should get more people involved, not only those who are animal lovers.

She said PAWS need the support of people, including writing to elected officials to pass the anti-animal cruelty bill or push the government to start enforcing its local animal leash law.

Busenkell added that mayoral candidates should also need to educate themselves about the importance of animal control done in a humane way.

"I would never want to talk the government into opening an [animal] shelter that they can't afford to run efficiently or humanely so it would help to asses the situation, educate themselves on Saipan's needs and our ability to do the best we can with what we have," the PAWS president added.

Dog show

PAWS and Beautify CNMI's Animal Welfare Committee are also hosting the third dog show tentatively set for June, according to Busenkell.

"It's really been a successful event. Last year, we had about 80 people in attendance. It was a great fundraiser and it's a lot of fun," she added.

Event organizers will be meeting Tuesday noon at Oleai Bar & Grill.

More information about PAWS is available online at www.paws-saipan.org andhttp://paws-saipan.blogspot.com. Those who have inquiries can email bgrizzard@saipan.com or call 483-9464 or 285-PAWS.

Since its inception, PAWS has been able to help animals in need of homes and medical care. Over the years, it has offered the community help with veterinary costs, hosted low-cost spay and neuter clinics, found homes for unwanted animals, organized a humane education committee, hosted dog shows, and worked toward improving the lives of Saipan's people and animals by lobbying for an anti-cruelty statute and a humane animal shelter.

$250

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The one-time payments will go to Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Veterans Disability, and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries, who were eligible for benefits in November or December 2008 or January 2009. The payments were authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Congress passed in February.

"Putting cash directly in the hands of consumers is one of the best ways to stimulate the economy," said Sablan. "I hope this money eases the burden for the elderly and other beneficiaries and allows them to make some of the purchases they have had to delay."

In his letter Astrue explained that it is not necessary for the beneficiaries to take any action to receive the $250 checks. "SSA will automatically mail the check to or pay into accounts of eligible recipients," he wrote.

Astrue said Social Security and SSI beneficiaries should also be receiving advance notice about the payments through the mail.

Eligible veterans will receive their payment from the Veterans Administration.

Nationwide more than 50 million people are expected to get the stimulus payment. The SSA expects that by May 29 more than $13 billion will have been distributed.

Sablan and Astrue are scheduled to meet on May 8 to discuss how the distribution is going and other issues regarding the Social Security system in the Northern Marianas.

Social Security has asked that anyone who does not receive a payment wait until June 4 to report the missing check. At that time there will be a toll-free number—1-800-772-1213—to call; or beneficiaries may contact the local Social Security office. Veterans may call 1-877-772-5772.

Sablan's District and Washington offices will also be available to help any Social Security beneficiary or disabled veteran who does not receive a check by June 4.

For more information, visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov or, for veterans, http://www.va.gov.

FY80

From Page 1

budget ceiling of $37.2 million for all its schools. That was when per child allocation started to experience a dramatic decline, showing only a meager $3,972 per child allocation that year; $3,752 in 2000; $3,723 in 2001; and down to a measly $3,309 in fiscal year 2002.

PSS' per child spending remained stagnant in the last six years—$3,311 in 2003; $3,378 in 2004; $3,210 in 2005; $3,196 in 2006; $3,250 in 2007; and $3,182 in 2008.

Even with federal grants, only a slight variance was noted in every given fiscal year.

Based on federal laws and policies, federal grants could only be used to assist—not supplant—local appropriation for PSS.

In the past 14 years, CNMI revenue witnessed a dramatic decline, resulting in the per pupil allocation to drop.

Last fiscal year (2008), the federal government—through U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture grants—spent $2,639 on every CNMI student, a slight increase in the $2,534 that every public school student got in 2007.

Prior year numbers showed that the federal government's allocation per child in the CNMI amounted to $2,422 in 2006; $2,425 in 2005; $2,378 in 2004; $2,046 in 2003; $1,600 in 2002; $1,700 in 2001; and $1,758 in 2000.

In fiscal year 1999, PSS per child allocation through federal grants amounted to $1,685; $1,406 in 1998; $1,330 in 1997; $1,248 in 1996; $1,284 in 1995; and $1,340 in 1994.

Records show that the lowest federal per pupil allocation to students in the CNMI was in 1996 at $1,248.

Combining the per child allocation from both local and federal monies, CNMI students had a total per pupil allocation of just $5,821 last year. This is substantially lower than the $9,580 being spent on each student in the U.S. mainland—a gap of $4,029 per child.

Local funds vs. federal grants

Besides local funding from the CNMI government, PSS is also a recipient of federal funds made available through consolidated grants, school breakfast and lunch program, Head Start, and special education.

Records show that 97 percent of the local budget of PSS in FY 2008 went to personnel costs, while only 3 percent was used for operations. PSS had 278 teachers and 198 support staffers last year.

The 3 percent was reportedly used for schools' basic needs such as drinking water and toiletries, repairs and maintenance, fuel, and bus repairs.

Local funds approved for PSS last fiscal year was $36 million: $34.9 million for personnel and $1 million for all others.

PSS' annual report recorded $33.1 million in federal assistance in fiscal years 2007-2008, with $9.3 million used for personnel and $23.8 million for all others.

The federal funds received by CNMI PSS accounted for 28 percent of personnel and 72 percent for all others.

429 Tinian families are granted homestead lots

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands yesterday granted homestead lots to 429 Tinian families who have waited for years for a place to build their homes.

A long line of people lined up under the sun from morning to late afternoon at the Tinian Youth Center for the drawing of lots.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario, and Tinian officials led the ceremony.

"This is the first time it's happened on Tinian and I was really thrilled. People waited under the sun [for the lottery drawing]," Del Rosario told *Saipan Tribune*. "Four-hundred twenty-nine lots were distributed and the lottery drawing was still ongoing when I left Tinian."

He said he instructed DPL Tinian resident director Ray M. Cing to continue the drawing of lots today if needed. Each homestead lot has a size of anywhere between 800 square meters to 1,000 sq.m.

Del Rosario said Tinian residents will be given up to four years, instead of the normal three-year period, to develop the lots granted to them.

"As the governor told the people, 'use it wisely. If you don't use it, you lose it,'" Del Rosario added.

Surveyors have been subdividing the lots and this process is expected to be completed soon. Del Rosario also said the Division of Environmental Quality has yet to decide whether to allow individual septic tanks or a common sewage system, and power, water and roads are also being worked on.

Del Rosario said homestead lot distribution on Rota, meanwhile, hinges on regulatory agencies' decisions. He said there are currently 550 homestead lot applications on Rota but only 180 lots have so far been identified for use.

Garapan apartment burglarized

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A laptop and three signature bags were stolen from one of the tenants on the third floor of the Juan Ian Building in Garapan yesterday morning.

Alma Mesa said her daughter started looking for their laptop around 7:15am and when she got home, they discovered they have been burglarized. She said she called the apartment's owner, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, right away. The senator, she said, was the one who called police, who arrived around 8:30am.

Mesa said the perpetrator(s) used the kitchen area to gain entry into the back side of the apartment.

"Our unit is the only one without a [window] grille. We're on the third floor. The apartment has a surveillance camera in front, but the back doesn't have one and that's where they entered our unit," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mesa said she lost her black/silver Averatic laptop which has 12.1" LCD, worth $1,450. Also stolen were Kipling, Coach and Versace bags.

She said she will start going around all pawnshops to give the description of her stolen laptop.

"I am hoping whoever burglarized our apartment will get caught and the items stolen will be returned to us," Mesa added.

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Student seeks aid to attend Jr. Statesmen

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A local student is hoping the Legislature will help her and others attend the Junior Statesmen of America program this summer.

Mount Carmel School sophomore Maria Balajadia has written to House Speaker Arnold Palacios seeking the Legislature's help to fund her time at the summer program at Princeton University in Newark, New Jersey.

Balajadia is one of 22 students in the CNMI chosen for the program held at Stanford University, Princeton and Georgetown University.

Four of the students—Gino Benavente, a student at Marianas Baptist Academy; Denn Manglona from Rota High School; and Hazel Marie Doctor and Ryan Ortizo, both from Mount Carmel—received scholarships, which includes the full tuition of $4,695 and round-trip transportation.

Unfortunately, Balajadia said in the letter, many of the students might have to forgo the program because of the expense. Therefore, she said, she is seeking financial assistance from the Legislature and legislators.

"I am full aware of our economic situation and cash flow problems," she said, "but I also know that you will be able to identify other resources. I can assure you that by sending our students to this rigorous and terrific program will result in a better CNMI. The outcome will be fresh, young, educated minds always wondering and always wanting to experience the wonderful world of politics and democracy."

The Junior Statesmen of America program is a non-partisan student-run youth organization. The program was founded in 1934.

Decorated general to speak at ESGR's Gala

TUMON, Guam—Decorated soldier and Army National Guard Deputy Commanding General for U.S. Army Pacific Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Wilson will serve as keynote speaker at the 1st Annual ESGR Employer Awards Gala tomorrow, May 2 at 6pm at Marriott Guam Resort.

The gala, organized by Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, will celebrate local businesses on Guam and throughout the CNMI who employ and support members of the Guard and Reserve.

"Maj. Gen. Patrick Wilson has served our country since 1976, and has commanded thousands of soldiers during his career," said ESGR president Paul D. Leon Guerrero. "He knows better than anyone the sacrifice our men and women in uniform make every day, and how thankful they are to employers who allow them to keep their jobs back home."

Public and private businesses are required to hold jobs for men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserve when they get called to serve our country. Because of their support of the Armed Forces, servicemen and women can concentrate on their mission without worrying about their jobs.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to develop and promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees. It does so by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation.

Several employers and supporters will be honored throughout the gala with awards including the Seven Seals Award, Volunteer Appreciation, the FC Spirit of Volunteerism Award, Above and Beyond Awards and Pro Patria Awards, presented by event emcees Ray Gibson and Patty Arroyo. ***(PR)***

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Change sought in sick leave regulations

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider wants to amend the Commonwealth code to change the regulations governing the use of sick leaves among government employees.

Under Senate Bill 16-55, workers would be allowed to use sick leave hours from the sick leave bank in order to attend to an immediate family member who needs care due to a prolonged illness. A medical statement from the attending physician that such care is necessary is required.

In the legislation, Hofschneider said some government employees have had trouble continuing care for a sick relative after they have exhausted their sick leave days.

"The Legislature further finds that the current regulations governing the eligibility of those government employees who may apply for sick leave hours from the sick leave bank do not allow for the use of such hours to care for an ill family members," the bill states.

Moreover, many of the affected employees would rather retire from the government in order to attend to their sick family member but have been unable to do so because of the poor financial condition of the government's retirement fund currently, which prevents them from being able to retire.

"Therefore, it is the purpose of this act to allow for government employees to use sick leave hours from the sick leave bank to attend to an immediate family member suffering from a prolonged illness," Hofschneider said. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

NMI to display Sugar Star Flag

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will sign this Saturday a proclamation honoring the Sugar Star Families of America at the Army Reserve in Puerto Rico.

The ceremony will start at 9:30am. Tudela will present the flag to Maj. Greg Sablan. The flag will be displayed at the center 24-7.

This will be the first time that Tudela will sign a proclamation of this nature, according to public information officer Tony Benavente.

"This day had been set aside by a group of military families to remember all the injured and fallen soldiers of all the branches of the U.S. military," Benavente said.

All families of injured and fallen soldiers are invited to join the event. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9 subsection 9910, Honorable Juan B. Tudela, Mayor of Saipan, hereby gives notice that the Saipan Cockpit Board will hold a Special meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 9 a.m. at the Marianas Cockfight Arena in Gualo Rai on Chalan Pale Arnold.

I. Preliminary Matters
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. New Business
- a. Adoption of proposed Cockfighting Rules and Regulations
- b. April 6, 2009 protest letter (Romeo F. Norcio)

IV. Executive Session

V. Miscellaneous
- a. Announcements
- b. Next Meeting
- c. Adjournment

/s/ Juan B. Tudela
Mayor

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 1, 2000

Petition begins for filing of class suit

A petition for possible filing of a class action suit against the U.S. government for the widespread contamination of polychlorinated biphenyl in Tanapag has now begun. Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, started the ball rolling last Friday with a call to island residents to attend a town meeting scheduled for May 8. This is in line with the visit of representatives from mainland-based law firms Waters & Krauss and Charles Seigel that will investigate the environmental disaster in the village described by Greenpeace activists as a "global toxic hot spot."

24 firms interested on Tinian airport project

At least 24 companies have signified intentions to participate in the bidding for the multi-million-dollar improvement of the West Tinian International Airport during an ocular inspection with Ports Authority officials Friday. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios and Executive Director Carlos H. Salas spearheaded the delegation to the island for a tour of different sites that are up for repair under the West Tinian International Airport improvement project. The ocular inspection was part of the Pre-Bidding Conference for the project, where issues including scope, deadline for the submission of proposals, construction phasing, contract duration and contract award were discussed.

May 1, 2001

US Congress sees true picture of Saipan's garment sector

Local garment industry officials are pleased that members of US Congress are now aware of the real conditions inside Saipan garment factories despite continuous attempts by the CNMI's critics to malign the industry. Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association Executive Director Richard A. Pierce lauded a recent "Dear Colleague" letter from US Rep. John T. Doolittle (R-California) recognizing the "overwhelmingly positive" improvements made in Saipan's garment companies over the last few years. Mr. Pierce at the same time took issue with criticism aired last month by Rep. George Miller (R-California) purporting alleged "ongoing wage and labor rights violations in factories operating in some of our American territories."

HANMI bats for cleaner isles

The Hotel Association is calling on the government to raise environmental awareness levels to ensure that protection of the natural resources and promotion of tourism go hand in hand. "Tourism is not only about getting people to come over to our islands. It is also about ensuring that our visitors are provided a clean and safe environment," HANMI President Ronald D. Sablan said. The hotel industry leader is taking government agencies to task in light of concerns raised by some members of the community about potential health hazards in areas that may be frequented by tourists.

May 1, 2002

Double whammy for banking sector

The Bank of Saipan's board of directors has vowed to cooperate with a government move to appoint an outside expert to temporarily manage the banking institution's financial affairs, amid the latter's fears of depositors committing a bank run. Robert Goldberg, counsel for the BoS corporation, told Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan during a hearing yesterday afternoon that the bank supports the move to tap a "receiver" to oversee the bank's operations. This came after the government filed yesterday a civil suit, petitioning the Superior Court for the immediate appointment of a "receiver" in a bid to prevent what it described as a "situation that may get out of control."

HSBC closing Saipan branch this year

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. will close down its Saipan branch by the end of 2002, the HSBC Holdings Board announced yesterday. The decision is in line with the banking institution's move to reposition and reduce its operations in the Mariana Islands, HSBC Guam/Saipan Chief Executive Officer Guy Priestly said in a statement. Priestly said that while the Saipan branch will completely cease operations by the year-end, the Guam office will stop offering transactional banking services and won't be taking on new businesses with immediate effect. He pointed out that the decision to streamline operations in the Marianas was triggered by the present economic environment, which, he said, makes it hard for HSBC to build a competitive market position.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Swine flu common sense

Whether the swine flu turns into a serious epidemic or never fulfills its initial global threat, the federal government rightly went into high alert and launched a search for a vaccine. Just as in 1976, this new emergence of swine flu could come to nothing—which all of us can hope for—but better to attack it with vigor than to understate the risk. That's because, in addition to sweeping government action (travel advisories, research and the release of antiviral drugs), limiting the outbreak also requires public knowledge and personal action (less kissing and more soap and water).

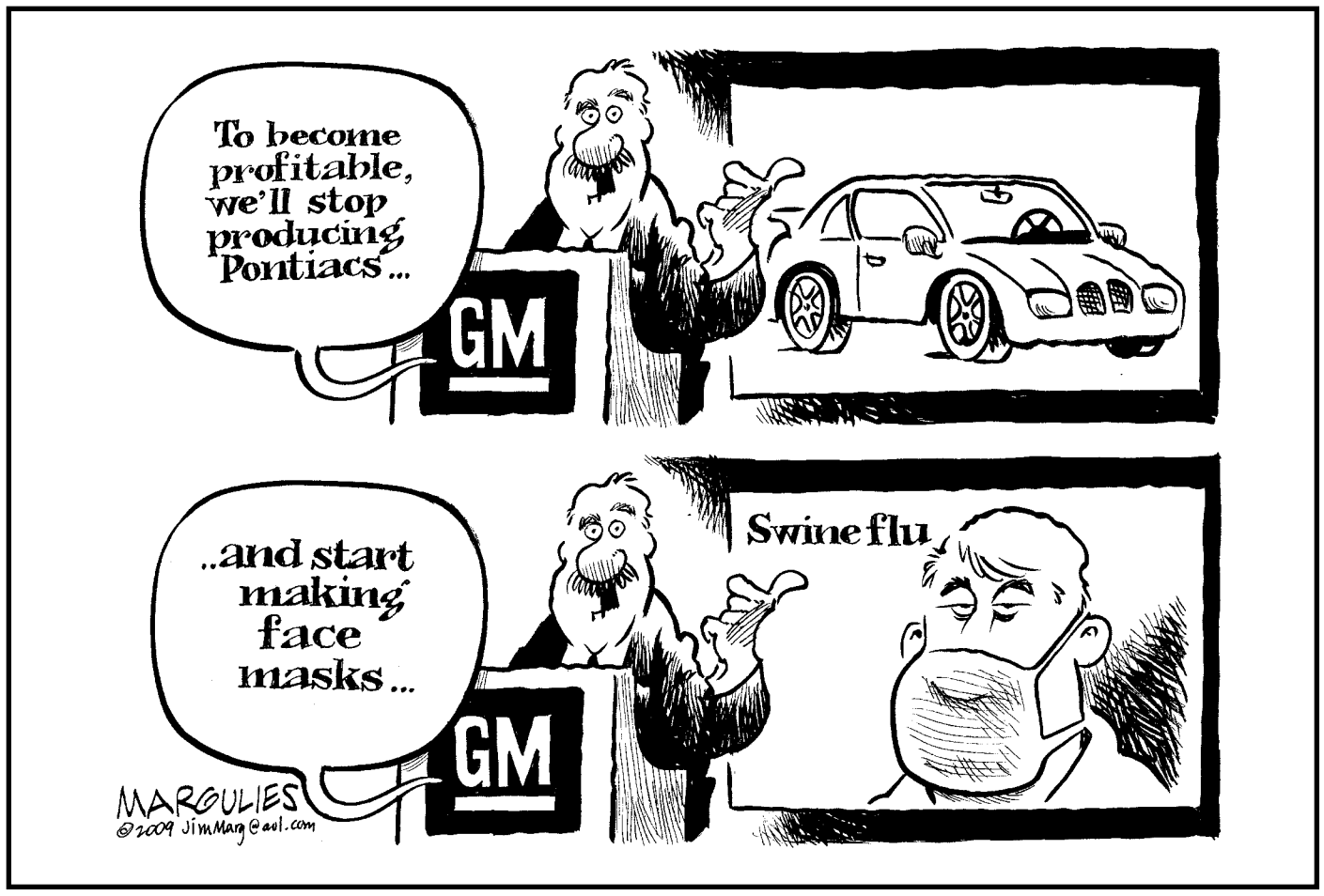
We wouldn't go as far as to applaud the overreaction among European health authorities, who asked people to avoid unnecessary travel to the United States, or Russia's ban on U.S. and Mexican pork imports. The flu can't be caught by eating pork, and several dozen U.S. flu cases—apparently much milder than the cases in Mexico—in a nation of 300 million people is a weak reason for bringing global travel and commerce to a panic-induced halt. A better argument is made for restricting travel from any country into and out of Mexico, where there have been more than 2,000 possible cases with widespread contamination. The best chance for minimizing the reach of the disease is containment.

But the issue of containment is fraught given the daily, ubiquitous interactions between the U.S. and Mexico and the number of Mexican nationals in this country legally or illegally at any given time. Stricter vigilance along the border is called for—this is a health issue, not a political one—but one of the worst reactions would be an anti-immigrant backlash born of racism and fear.

In fact, Mexican nationals in this country, regardless of their residency status, should be encouraged to stay put for now. And it is the worst possible time for California counties to respond to tight budgets by cutting health services to illegal immigrants, as some are doing. Swine flu doesn't discriminate on the basis of nationality; the public is better protected when all sick people can get to a doctor.

Other key strategies should involve putting as much manpower and money as possible into the anti-flu effort in Mexico, both as humanitarian aid and as one of the best ways to reduce the global threat. The World Bank made a good start on this with a $205-million loan to the country for medicines and better health infrastructure. But much more is needed: education, access to clean water and sanitation, and emergency medical equipment. Health authorities in the United States should see helping our neighbor as an integral part of protecting Americans. The intertwining of the two countries' fates has never been clearer.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



How credit card finance charges serve to reduce IRS tax collections for US Treasury

Interest rates that are the envy of mafia loan sharks

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I received a notice from a bank that issued a credit card to me advising that that they were going to raise my interest rate. I contacted them to question their action knowing well that they could impose such increases as a result of my agreement with the institution. However, I thought it unfair considering that I always paid my debt, was never late and never over limit. I pointed this out and asked that my rate be reduced to reflect the previous lower rate. I received a letter telling me what a valuable customer I was, how they valued my business, etc., but "no," they would not lower my rate to its previous lower rate.

Being a bit piqued at their decision, I thought, OK, I'll get you.

But how was a poor ol' country boy, not long off the watermelon wagon, peering through the tall grass at a huge multibillion dollar bank going to do this? The only way would be to hit them at their bottom line. But how could this be done?

Here's how: I sent the following concept to the IRS Commissioner, the U.S. Treasury Secretary and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Shortly thereafter I received a telephone call from two economists at the Federal Reserve who after reading my theory presented below said, to my utter astonishment, "You know, Mr. Stewart, we never thought of that!"

Here's the issue I pointed out:

The grossly exorbitant interest rates charged millions of Americans has a little recognized but profoundly serious adverse influence resulting in reduced tax revenues generated for the U.S. Treasury. The practices of many card issuing companies and their parent banks have caused great financial damage to our government's revenue base.

Now that the U.S. government is a partner in the ownership of many of America's major banks the matter discussed below should be the subject of a congressional inquiry.

Most economists and bankers would agree that a fair and reasonable rate for the rental of borrowed funds in the form of a personal loan such as provided by the use of a credit cards issued to, and used by, "prudent and responsible" borrowers to be about 6 to 7 percent annually. This is referred to as the "real rate." To this rate must be added an additional percentage equal to the estimated annual rate of inflation to compensate for the reduced purchasing power of the funds over, or throughout, the period until full repayment.

Thus, while the real rate of interest should normally be about 6 percent as mentioned above, the "nominal rate" would be 6 percent plus the expected rate of inflation, say, for example 4 percent (at least in terms of the Consumer Price Index). The two factors make up what is known as the nominal rate. (The average annual inflation rate in 2008 was 3.85 percent.)

Thus, a fair and reasonable rate to an honest and qualified borrower (as described below) should be around 10 to 11 percent as the annual percentage rate (APR). Contrast this charge with APRs (to prudent and responsible) borrowers as high as 29.9 to 30 percent as regularly levied by many card-issuing companies.

The difference between the fair and reasonable rate of 10 to 11 percent and a 30 percent APR is 19 to 20 percent when paid and is equal to the sum removed from the disposable income of consumers.

More seriously for the U.S. Treasury, the excess payment equal to 19 to 20 percent "soaked" up by the card companies and removed from circulation by the consuming cardholder is not otherwise available to act as a multiplier effect throughout the economy since these funds are not available for other purchases by the cardholder. This flow of funds through the economy—in and out, up and down, round after round—is based upon the fact that one person's expenditure is another's income and taxed at every round of exchange by the government.

Since 20 percent or so has been effectively removed from the pockets of many consumers by the card companies and not available for personal expenditures it does not generate the tax flows that should normally accrue to the U.S. Treasury. When multiplied by millions of honest cardholders one can readily see that millions of dollars in tax revenue is lost to the Treasury. The result being the multiplier effect on the economy is less when allocated as corporate profit than that compared to a much more significant impact resulting from millions of broad based individual consumer expenditures taxed at every purchase.

Of course, there is some multiplier effect resulting from bank expenditures, e.g., payroll, material purchases, building expansion, corporate yachts, Swiss chalets, business conferences on the Riviera, etc., but I dare say the effect is far less pronounced within the American economy than would otherwise be the case if the interest rates were lower resulting in more money left in the pockets of the average consumer.

Note: The above observation is confined solely to credit card holders who carry a balance and exercise due diligence; do not abuse their credit privilege; make payments on time and in amounts not less than the minimum required and do not exceed their credit limit.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Let's not shake on it

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Sometimes, you find yourself sitting in the back of the class, just itching to raise your hand and raise a nagging point. But, since you don't want to sound like a whining gadfly (Saipan doesn't exactly have a shortage of those), you just stifle the urge to open your yapper.

But thanks to Swine Flu 2.0, and the hysteria surrounding it, I can spot a chance to vent my spleen. So here we go: Wouldn't it be cool if Saipan got rid of the handshake habit? For one thing, it turns us all into unwitting disease vectors. For another thing, it's a stupid gesture to begin with.

So why not dispense with it? We could use our exotic, close-to-Asia status to justify our cultural rebellion. We'll just bow instead of shaking hands. In fact, since I'm on a gadfly roll here, I'll pipe-dream a bow in which everyone is equal, a simple, equilateral bow that is devoid of any nuance of social status or hierarchy. It will be billed as a charming element of island life, the "Saipan Bow."

Or, if you don't like that, then try this: Everyone could invent their own bows, or maybe their own salutes. We could personalize them. I'm thinking I'll use a slight nod of the head for a bow, then give a quick thumbs up, then screw a stupid smile on my face and then, as a capper, say "Dude!"

Oh, wait, I already do that.

Anyway, as you know, Americans, and those influenced by American culture, get the handshake reflex early in life. It's a mandatory lesson in gentlemanly behavior. But it's about as useful these days as a codpiece. And it's even more cumbersome.

For example, everyone in Saipan, and probably everyone reading these words, has experienced this minor annoyance: You're sitting in a restaurant, just about to take hold of the cheeseburger you've been craving all day, and along comes a colleague of yours who, just your luck, has six visitors in tow. Your colleague, of course, can't help from dispensing introductions. The hands extend automatically, and you find yourself rubbing more raw flesh than a Bangkok go-go dancer. And you don't even get a tip or a lady's drink out of it.

Anyway, now that your burger has cooled to room temperature and the visitors have moved safely out of eyeshot, you scamper to the restroom to wash your mitts, only to discover that (a) somebody is occupying it, or (b) there's no hot water to wash with, or (c) there's no way to dry your hands unless you want to rub them on the floor, or (d) uh, whatever.

This all leads to (e), most of us just give up in advance and eat our darned burger.

And, yeah, I know that some genius will suggest (f) that we all just carry some hand sanitizer with us wherever we go, but I'm on a roll here, so (g) go away. The fact of the matter is, germs or no germs, swine flu or no swine flu, SARS or no SARS, bird flu or no bird flu, shaking hands is a ritual best suited to used-car salesmen and campaigning politicians and, frankly, that's not a ringing endorsement.

Like all useless social conventions, this one is probably perpetuated by some twisted element of psychology. Maybe it's narcissism. Maybe people think they're so great that anyone meeting them just can't wait to touch them.

Oddly enough, we don't usually shake hands with family or with friends. No, we save the socially-mandated germ exchanges for strangers, or for acquaintances who we don't like enough to promote to friend status. Logical, that ain't.

I'm not very worried about germs in general, but, still, in cost-benefit terms, what is the upside of shaking hands? Beyond adherence to social convention, there is no upside, no practical value, to the custom. As for downside, well, this month's health scare (there were others in the past, and there will be others in the future) provides a good enough excuse to haul this ritual to the Marpi dump.

■■■

Economics note: One of Jim Rogers' latest interviews was in *Time* magazine. It will be of interest to anyone concerned with Asia-Pacific economics. I'll post a link on my blog.

An apology and a call for dialogue

By GALVIN DELEON GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Galvin Deleon Guerrero is a member of the CNMI Board of Education.

My recent statements on disciplinary practices in our public schools have stirred up some disappointment, frustration, and anger in the community. Before going any further, I should first express my unequivocal apology to all administrators, teachers, staff, and students in our public schools. I was working with some flawed data and issued some statements that were uncalled for. As a result, I undermined, disrespected, and hurt the very people that I am constitutionally mandated to help and serve as a member of the CNMI Board of Education. I apologize for any harm I may have caused.

With that, I also feel it is important to clarify a few matters.

First, while the data is flawed, I went to great lengths to verify it. As soon as I came on board in January 2008 and was tasked to chair the BOE School Reform Committee, many parents and students raised concerns that suspensions were being abused at some schools. Rather than react to hearsay and isolated incidents, I decided that the Reform Committee should hold meetings at schools and villages to learn more about this issue, among other issues, at a grassroots level. We also requested data from the Commissioner of Education on suspension rates over the past five years, starting in school year 2003-2004. To verify the data, the Reform Committee then compiled this information, sent it out to the PSS leadership and the rest of the BOE, and presented it at a meeting at Saipan Southern High School on March 4, 2009. The Commissioner further discussed both the data and the issue of discipline with the PSS leadership and at the monthly PSS principals' meetings in March and April. In the meantime, the Reform Committee continued to gather more input at community-based meetings where parents continued to express concerns over the alleged abuses of suspensions.

However, despite going through all of this for over a year, the data still came out imperfect. I wish it had not, and while I'm not sure what else I could have done, I wish I could have done more. It is clear that we must continue studying this issue to understand it better.

Second, contrary to the claims that I am going "soft on students," my goal was and is to promote dialogue about this important issue, not to necessarily come down hard on one side or the other. In fact, in my April 22 report to the BOE, I raised these questions:

■ Does an increase in the number of suspensions indicate better enforcement of PSS disciplinary policy, or a switch to a more punitive approach towards student discipline?

■ How does the increase in suspensions affect student attendance and graduation rates?

■ Why is there so much variance between schools? Does this reflect a lack of consistency between schools, or does it uphold each school's authority to handle its own discipline problems in its own way?

■ Is there a need for a policy change to enforce more consistency between schools, or should each school be empowered to implement its own approach to discipline?

■ How much are schools doing to balance the need for a disciplined environment against the needs of students that are suspended?

■ Is adequate counseling and support provided to students that are suspended?

■ Is there a need for innovative approaches to student discipline beyond just punitive measures?

Furthermore, in my report, I recommended the following to the Commissioner:

■ Review each school's internal disciplinary procedures to ensure that they are in compliance with BOE/PSS policy and meeting the needs of students.

■ Study and investigate further to identify the causes for increased suspension rates.

■ Provide training to teachers, staff, and administrators on behavior modification as an alternative to punitive disciplinary actions.

■ Ensure that students are accorded adequate counseling services to address addictive/compulsive behaviors such as betel nut chewing and smoking, which account for a large number of disciplinary infractions.

Again, I was not going soft on students, nor was I going hard

See AN APOLOGY on Page 13

'Emancipate thyself from mental slavery'

By JIM RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"Mama told me…forget your lust for the rich man's gold… all you need is in your soul… (and) don't forget there is someone up above"… so go the famous lyrics from one of America's favorite rednecks—the *simple man* if you will. The song got me thinking about life in general and somehow, through the unabashed ramblings of my fellow "*Thinking Idiots,"* I was inspired to write what follows. My brother tells me I'm biting off more than I can chew, so to be clear the views expressed herein are my personal opinions and not necessarily reflective of any member of my family or anyone associated with and/or working for NMPASI.

Above all else, I wholeheartedly believe that there is a God. It is perhaps the only unwavering, truly constant belief in my life and there has never been a single instant, regardless of how bleak life seemed to be, where I have ever entertained any notion to the contrary…God is and always has been. Still, my interpretations of God's love may be vastly different from everyone and anyone around me thus I do take issue with some forms of religion and for sure some religions would take issue with me—that's my opinion and I have the right to express it, so I will have my apple and eat it too.

In the context of more earthly ideas—let's take political partisanship for instance—my general beliefs are, at best, a tangled mess of left, right, and wrong ideologies. Admittedly, I tend to lean on the right side more often than not, so I like to say that I'm a Republican with Democrat sensitivities (for whatever that's worth). I think my friend said it best when he referred to himself as a "bleeding-heart, tree-hugging conservative." The real point is that party politics can not define me, but my faith in a higher being and the ever-evolving people around me do. I won't be held to hardliner, extremist views on either side of the political spectrum. I pick and choose what I believe to be important from both ends in support of the bigger picture, "one heart, one love." We are all God's children and each of us has the absolute, inalienable right to live our lives the way we see fit.

God himself granted us the gift of free will (Genesis 2:16) and yes, I would concede that God could be a woman, yet on the most basic levels, the morality police—whether conservative or liberal—continue to challenge the notion as if they created man or the heavens and earth. Ironically, it's often the truest of believers, the churchgoers, who struggle the most with the idea that every man is free to do as he pleases. "If a thing is free to be good then it is also free to be bad…Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having" (PG. 5 MENS Devotional Bible – NIV).

That said, nowhere is the imposition of personal wills on other people more apparent than in the lives of individuals with disabilities. More often than not, they live their lives under the constant, overbearing direction of others. Sentiments like, "He has to do what I say because he doesn't know any better" or "She can't do that because it's not good for her" are some of the prevailing comments in opposition to their freedom of choice. Even those of us who work to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities sometimes cross the line and rather than advocating for what the person wants or needs, we try to impose what we think would be best. At the very least, this is an infringement on their individuality, but what strikes me as being most egregious in this manner of thinking is that it perpetuates the notion that people with disabilities don't have the right to direct their own lives. Ultimately, we do the individuals and society as a whole a grave injustice when we stifle individualism and promote dependence through an expectation of blind trust. So what if people falter along the way? Don't we all?

In the end, every person has both the right and the responsibility to choose his own path. To the political party loyalists, "Emancipate thyself from mental slavery" and allow yourself to consider what others have to offer. To people in general, *Live Life Well*.

The month of May is being proclaimed as National Mental Health Awareness Month. For more information, on mental health issues, and/or the general rights of individuals with disabilities, please contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] / 235-7275 [fax] or on-line at www.nmpasi.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

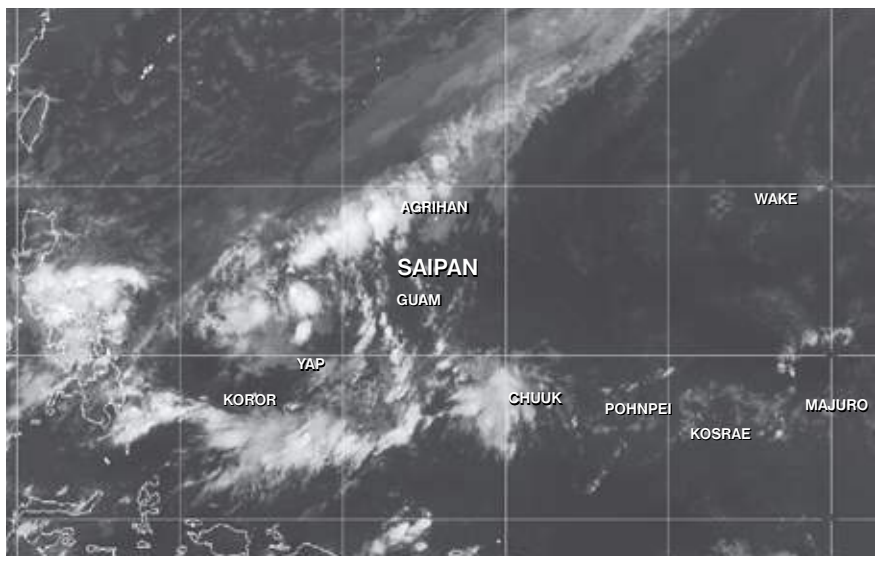
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼48
Beijing	Cloudy	▲81	▼55
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼47
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼73
New York	Thunderstorms	▲71	▼57
Osaka	Sunny	▲69	▼51
Paris	Showers	▲61	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼51
Rome	Thundershowers	▲69	▼51
Salem	Cloudy	▲62	▼46
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲67	▼50
Tokyo	Sunny	▲72	▼55
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲79	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness, patchy rain and embedded showers are found along and up to 300 miles to the north of the shear-line. Additionally, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 50 miles ahead of the shear-line west of 140E. A surface trough stretches northward from EQ138E to a circulation centered at 13N137E then continues northeastward to end near 20N139E. Another surface trough extends east-southeastward from 12N130E through the aforementioned circulation to end at 8N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over a broad area of western Micronesia within an area bounded by a line from 12N135E to 4N130E to 4N151E to 10N151E back to 12N135E. This area includes Chuuk, Yap and Koror. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers over Pohnpei and Kosrae and near Majuro within 100 miles of a line extending eastward from 6N155E to 5N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:37 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:55 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:11 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:02 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:28 AM	
Saturday	12:28 PM	12:39 AM
Sunday	1:25 PM	1:25 AM
Monday	2:19 PM	2:06 AM
Tuesday	3:12 PM	2:45 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Adding insult to injury

In your article of April 25 story, "Guilty! Jury finds Villagomez, Santos couple guilty," U.S. Attorney Leonardo Rapadas was quoted to have said, "Government corruption has always been high on the priority list for the Department of Justice. And it is sad to see that in small areas like CNMI we have government corruption that has reached into the highest levels." These are racist and condescending remarks. Really, Mr. Rapadas, were you trying to say that something like what's going on in Illinois should not be happening here because we are "in small areas like CNMI?"

And, let me see, are you familiar with these remarks by some defense attorneys in a recent case, "The corrupt conduct of [government] attorneys…in the case. This jury verdict was obtained unlawfully; the misconduct of government prosecutors…was stunning. It is a sad story and a warning to everyone. Any citizen can be convicted if prosecutors are hell-bent on ignoring the Constitution and willing to present false evidence." This was a case involving five of your colleagues in the Justice Department.

The point, here, Mr. Rapadas, is we all make mistakes in our lives. Don't blow it out of proportion. If justice is done in this case, so be it; but like you say, we are in small areas, so we know the victims and we sympathize with their families. But, please, refrain from preaching to us about law and order.

But, what infuriates me even more is the fact that we could have prevented your insensitive boastfulness if only our Commonwealth officials had done their job. Unlike the case in Illinois, this was not a federal case; no federal funds were misappropriated. It was unnecessary for the federal government to get involved. The public auditor should have turned over to the attorney general the findings of his investigations (and I think he did), and the attorney general pursuant to the CNMI Constitution should have prosecuted Mr. Villagomez and the other defendants. Instead, the attorney general violated his oath of office by not "prosecuting violations of Commonwealth law." As a result, another instance where we let the federal government wipe up our mess because we can't count on own officials to do the dirty job. The public deserves to know what role former attorney general Mathew Gregory played in this case; his malfeasance did a huge disservice to our people.

The last time I read the CNMI Constitution, the Office of the Public Auditor was a CNMI government agency. As such, the public auditor had no authority to be leaking or feeding information to the U. S. Attorney. And to add insult to injury, after failing to perform his duties and responsibilities as CNMI attorney general to prosecute Mr. Villagomez, his office provided "some assistance" to the U. S. Attorney as well.

Froilan C. Tenorio
Dandan, Saipan

Roll three, go free

I was disgusted by the articles slathering all over Villagomez by Fitial and Reyes. Any self-respecting politician would have distanced himself from a known corrupt felon. In this case I have to wonder, are they afraid to condemn him for a reason? Is the embarrassment Villagomez family suffered really enough punishment? Are they so naive to think that this is an isolated incident? Of course not. And who are they stealing from? Not the government, but the poor people who go without electric, drive on potholed roads, and work and live in dilapidated buildings for $4.05 an hour. The money stolen can be seen in the deficiencies of the island. Decaying public parks, dirty beaches and third world infrastructure. Now if the FBI pursued this corruption with the same voracity they use against Chinese girls at the bars they could roll up a whole carpet of corruption. They round up a herd of Chinese girls and threaten them with long jail sentences and deportation unless they squeal on each other. Works pretty well. If the Feds sentence Villagomez to 20 years, basically a life sentence, unless he rolls over on three other corrupt officials he'll squeal. Then maybe let him off with five years in the pen and the rest of the thieves can go along with him. Saipan needs some deterrent from corruption and there are enough young intelligent people with integrity to fill their shoes.

Ken Warfle
Garapan, Saipan

AN APOLOGY

From Page 11

on them. I was doing my best to make sure their needs were being met.

Third and last, I do believe that we must strike a balance between ensuring a disciplined school environment that is conducive to learning AND ensuring that even students that are disciplined are getting the help they need. That is why, with the exception of violent offenses, BEFORE a student is suspended, BOE Regulations 2602 and 2606 mandate that schools exhaust "standard day-to-day corrective disciplinary measures" including, but "not limited to, in-house detention, parent conferences, counseling sessions, campus clean up, community service, required apologies, behavioral intervention plans, and any reasonable creative disciplinary measures."

Perhaps some members of our community would disagree with this BOE policy. I, for one, think it's a good policy because it encourages us to exhaust every possible way to help students learn and grow from their mistakes.

Again, I apologize for causing any undue harm to our school administrators, teachers, and staff. They are working very hard under very hard circumstances, and should be applauded for all that they do for our students. I hope that we can move past this and engage in a meaningful dialogue about the role of discipline in our schools. In fact, I welcome anyone in our community to submit their thoughts and perspectives on this issue via email at galvin@itecnmi.com. I firmly believe that by engaging in this sort of dialogue, we can all work together to help each and every student succeed.

TONY ROMA'S
RIBS · SEAFOOD · STEAKS
Soup of the Day
Caesar Salad
Kicking's Shrimp and St. Louis Ribs Combo with Rice Pilaf and Green Beans
Brownie Sundae
With complimentary Peroni, Italian Beer or Pepsi
Only $25.99
(25% discount value!)
PERONI ITALY
pepsi
Value Dinner Set for all Mommies!
Free Wi-Fi Available
May 1-31, 2009
1st floor, Comete Center, Garapan • Tel. 233-9193 or 233-9195 • Open from 11:00 am to 10:30 pm

Letters to the Editor

The high cost of power

"High power cost shuts down WWII display at AMP center," the headline stated on April 16, 2009, for *Saipan Tribune*. For the past two to four years this type of news occurs over and over and over again. How far can we go in order for something to happen and change the course of this trend?

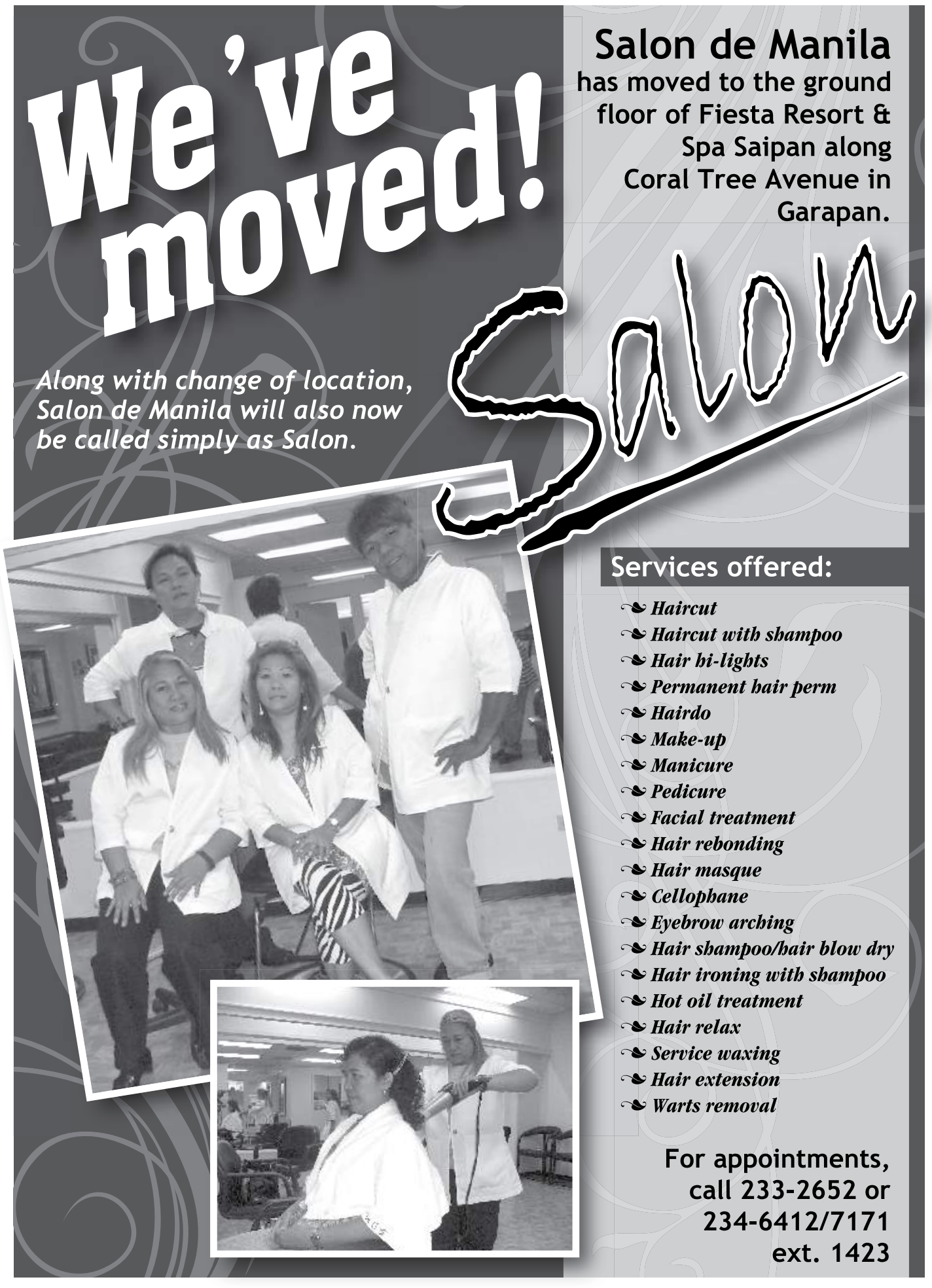
CUC's cost of power continues to play an important role in damaging the CNMI economy. The cost continues to be in question and yet remains unresolved. CNMI leaders should question the cost and outline how that cost should go back to normal. We don't need a scientist to point out that the high cost of power here in the CNMI includes the mismanagement and corruption in CUC's past administration. The cost of fuel has gone down and yet our fuel surcharge remains ludicrously high.

Because of mismanagement and corruption, the cost of power has ballooned to what it is today. Businesses continue to close down despite their effort to adjust their plans to stay afloat. They cannot jack up their prices ridiculously high like CUC because they are responsible businesses and they don't want the consumers to suffer. They'd rather close down and relocate.

The WWII display at AMP center is now closed because of the high cost of power. A lot of our own local residents have left the island, also because the cost of power is just too much. A lot of CUC customers are on promissory note, layaway or IOU plans or simply awaiting disconnection if not disconnected already. A large number of residential and commercial customers are currently on dispute and refuse to pay the ridiculous fuel surcharge. Regular folks like myself cannot afford anything else. The paycheck comes out and everything goes to CUC. I cannot pay rent, I cannot buy food, I cannot buy gas, I cannot do anything but basically work to pay CUC. Not many people go to the stores, to the restaurants, or buy new cars because all our money is tied up in IOUs to CUC. The CNMI is suffering because of the downturn in the economy but CUC is accounted for 90 percent of the reasons.

Now that election is coming up, what lies are we going to listen to again? I guarantee you, the one who has a clear plan on how to resolve this CUC fiasco will win the election. You ask why? The solution to CUC will be the turning point of the CNMI economy and the people of the CNMI not only want but must get out of this suffering orchestrated by the CUC fiasco. Candidates, you've been briefed; do not stray away from this issue, show us your plan and it better be real because if it is, your name will go down in CNMI history as the one who lifted the people of CNMI out of their economic misery and suffering.

Alfred Sablan
Dandan, Saipan



Lawyerspeak

According to the American Bar Association, the U.S. has about 1.14 million lawyers in our population of about 306 million people. That's about one lawyer for about every 270 people. Wow! Aren't we lucky! Our friends across the sea in the Philippines only have one lawyer for every 1,770 people, and the poor Japanese are stuck with just one lawyer for every 5,500 people, but its even worse in South Korea where they have only one lawyer for about 7,000 people. Let us count our blessings.

It is because we have such a glut of attorneys that they had to developed an entire new language called lawyerspeak. With lawyerspeak, attorneys can sound like they are being forthright through blustering, while disguising the truth. Let me cite a recent example.

Our dear proud friends in Washington, Howard P. and Deanne Willens, who have worked for more than 30 years with and for the Commonwealth, say that they are pleased to provide our services without any charge for legal fees. To that end they are call themselves volunteers. Wow! They are volunteers who accept no legal fees but still cost the Commonwealth taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars through the years as special legal counsel and special counsel! That is absolutely amazing. It does raise the question, however, since he is a lawyer and the law is his forte, could he be providing counsel in something else, like waste management, customs collections, tax incentives and liabilities that don't require a legal background? Or does it all call upon his legalese in providing counsel?

This is another reason why we can be justifiably proud of having a surplus of lawyers in America. This abundance of Councilors of the Law allows some to become so adept at lawyerspeak that they can pick our pocket while shaking our hand. This is not to say that all lawyers are bad. After all, we did have a phenomenal honest member of the bar, Honest Abe, but that was long ago and far away. Now, through lawyerspeak, we have to reexamine the meaning of volunteerism because of the new spin that's been put upon it. It apparently doesn't mean without pay, compensation, remuneration, costs, etc. Ah, well. Life goes on.

Sean O. Smith
via e-mail

Teachers, parents and students: Be aware!

In a *Newsweek* magazine article, "Calling the Baby Ugly," dated March 23, 2009, George F. Will makes a strong case for change in America's education system. The U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, says that under Bush's No Child Left Behind program, "We have been lying to children and their parents because states have dumbed down their standards of proficiency. Sometimes you have to call the baby ugly."

The articles goes on to say that the quality of schools usually reflects the quality of the families from which the students come. It is estimated that about 90 percent of the differences among schools in average proficiency can be explained by five factors:

1. Number of days absent from school.
2. Amount of television watched in the home.
3. Number of pages read for homework.
4. Quantity and quality of reading matter in the home.
5. Presence of two parents in the home (considered the most important factor).

Though the government can't do much about the above points it can affect *time* and *talent***.** The 180-day school year was designed in the 19th century to allow students on farms to participate in spring planting and fall harvesting; this practice is clearly outdated. The long summer break now makes it necessary for schools to devote time to remediation (reviewing materials learned and forgotten from the previous school year). So why not lengthen the school year, which is up to 60 days shorter in the U.S. than in many advanced nations?

Consider these two points:

1. With every F a freshman gets, the chance of graduating declines 20 percent.
2. Of freshmen who miss eight days of school per semester, fewer than half will graduate.

The article goes on to say that finding talented teachers is more important than reducing pupil-teacher ratios. Education can lure such teachers with better pay and forgiveness of student loans. Schools should also consider hiring teachers with "alternative certification"—credentials other than those provided by education schools.

Anybody interested in making some changes?

Perry Conner
As Matuis, Saipan

Letters to the Editor

Open government

There are three important factors that lead to a strong government. President Barack Obama states that a government "should be transparent, participatory, and collaborative." (whitehouse.gov). A transparent government should be clear and liable so that citizens can gain information from our government. Active participation allows a stronger government by improving the quality of decisions being made. Effectively working together in our government provides accountability. The Open Government or "Sunshine laws" are laws that allow the public to obtain information from a specific government agency. In a recent test, it was reported that nearly half of CNMI government agencies failed to comply with the Open Government Act. The government agencies that failed are violating the law. Probably what caused nearly half of our government agencies to fail is the lack of active citizen participation and collaboration. In the CNMI, this is one of our greatest concerns. We need to work effectively with one another to reduce complications within our government. It is a lesson worth learning, that an open government can make the CNMI government better. The consequences of not ensuring an open government would lead to more discrepancies. It is also best that everyone should be aware of our government's decisions, actions, and issues that occur.

Joel B. Tudela
Dandan, Saipan

Take advantage of the OGA!

I was made aware by Rep. Tina Sablan in one of her visits to our school that the CNMI has an Open Government Act. I found it hard to believe because it was never broadcasted and therefore we never knew anything about it. But now that the doors have been opened and the people finally have a way to get into the "nitty-gritty" of our local government, I'd say we better start taking advantage of this before more information becomes closed to us indefinitely.

I would've thought that since government agencies are always so eager to get money from the fiscal budget, that most of them would be willing to comply with the Open Government Act. Yet again I was in disbelief when I saw in Monday's paper that more than half of the CNMI's major government agencies failed to provide the necessary documents during a recent test survey, therefore violating the Open Government Act. This somewhat upsets me! Were those fifteen other government agencies just so busy that they couldn't take 10 minutes of their time—as NMC did, bravo, by the way—to fill out a few papers and fax them over?

Gee, now I'm in a pickle, aren't I? How in the world can I possibly be active in my community if my government fails to provide me with the crucial information I need in order to keep me up to date?

It's getting ridiculous, people. I don't think many of you are aware of it, but in order to have a strong government, you must have an open government. The President of the United States believes this and so do I. Where is the source of our democratic power? It's with us, the people. The CNMI only thrives on citizen participation, which can only be elicited by an open government. It's a simple equation: people want access.

If that's too hard to understand, let's just put it this way: Teenagers turn 18, but they don't register to vote. The youth want to dominate the media, but they have yet to write a simple letter to the editor. Where do we get this spineless attitude? Our leaders, of course! So, my advice for the government agencies who have broken the law: Get your act together. This isn't a game. Sooner or later, we'll know what you're up to, and sooner or later, you're just going to have to wallow in all that failure. Good luck with that.

Therese Dimapilis
MHS Student

Missing the point

It seem like Mr. Mark Scease is missing the point. If he is not in the CNMI, he need not make a comment about the things happening here. The reason I did not pick up the barbecue grill is because government employees and their management are getting paid serve the people. If they are not doing their job, then someone else should be in that position that will serve the people. The CNMI is in the midst of trying to get the CNMI government to serve the people. The people must be heard. I will not talk about what I have done for the community to Mr. Scease but maybe if he was in the CNMI he might understand. Who is he to say anything about the crisis in the CNMI, with him in San Diego? Understand the issues before you attempt to criticize anyone.

Willie L. Brundidge Jr.
via e-mail

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2X4X16 - $4.50	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.00	2X4X18 - $8.80
2X4X20 - $5.60	2X4X20 - $9.60
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $16.00

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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	~~10,799~~	8,999
U09-037T	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	47397	WHITE	ACA-860	8,499	
R09-004B	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	100808	GRAY	ACB-770	9,999	
R09-005F	2006	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	57427	SILVER	ABZ-639	10,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	~~9,999~~	7,299
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADC-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	23,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R09-007B	2006	4RUNNER	AUTO	25525	SILVER	ABZ-889	18,499	

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NMC Honor Society swears in new members and officers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Phi Theta Kappa Spring 2009 inductees, members, advisors, and keynote speaker following their recent induction ceremony.

The Northern Marianas College Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society celebrated the induction of eight new members into the Society on Saturday, April 25. Family, friends, NMC faculty, and PTK members joined in the festivities at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret to honor the new inductees.

This year's ceremony celebrates the 7th anniversary of Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Northern Marianas College. The Beta Lambda Psi Chapter was awarded its international membership charter in April 2002 at NMC and has grown from a membership of 16 in 2002 to about 120 current and past members. To qualify for Phi Theta Kappa, students must distinguish themselves by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative grade point average and participating in community service and leadership activities.

The seven newest full members include students from business, criminal justice, education, hospitality management and liberal arts: Raymond Basa, Nicole DLG. Benjamin, Stacey Demapan, Patricia Matagolai, Rita Mae Santos, Maria Tudela, and Luis Villagomez. Also welcomed into the chapter was one new provisional member: Skylar Brown. The induction ceremony was carried out by current PTK officers: president Roxanne Ferrer, vice president Lorna Manahane, recording secretary Frances Santos-Hofschneider, membership secretary Laurence Cambe, public relations secretary Diane Mallari, and treasurer Glenda Cabrera, and advisers Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Frank Sobolewski, and Larry Lee.

PTK officers for the next academic year 2010 were sworn in as well: president Roxanne Ferrer, vice president Frances Santos-Hofschneider, recording secretary Patricia Matagolai, membership secretary Dyenina Diaz, public relations secretary Stacey Demapan, and treasurer Mindy Park. NMC faculty member Melena Slaven gave an inspiring keynote address. The formal induction ceremony was followed by a buffet dinner.

An international organization, Phi Theta Kappa has recognized academic excellence in the two-year college since 1918. It is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters located in the 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Germany.

This past year, PTK members have been actively involved in painting graffiti-laden bus stops in Koblerville and Chalan Kiya. The local chapter also sponsors its Project Graduation: Feed a Body - Feed a Mind campaign during NMC's commencement week. Non-perishable food items and children's books are collected for distribution to charity.

More than 600 senior institutions in 50 states and provinces provide more than $36 million in scholarships exclusively to Phi Theta Kappa members who transfer from their respective community college to a four-year college or university to continue their studies. To date NMC's graduates have been awarded scholarships to continue studies at Hawaii Pacific University and at Syracuse University, New York.

For additional information about the NMC chapter membership or activities, contact chapter president Ferrer, or advisers Cabrera, Sobolewski, or Lee. ***(PR)***

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Call 233-4BUD(4283) for redemption locations. Must be 21 years or older to participate.

Red flag up at seven Saipan beach locales

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged seven beaches on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are Wing Beach, Palms Resort beach, DPW Channel Bridge, Outer Cove Marina, Dai-Ichi drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Garapan Beach drainage.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Rota's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Wednesday.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Salon de Manila reinvents self with move to new site

Talk about a makeover.

Salon de Manila has moved to the heart of Garapan and will now be called simply as Salon.

Salon opened last April 25 at the ground floor of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan at the former location of Fakuda Wedding Gowns.

Accountant Lydia Maniacop said the change of location will help the parlor capture the previously untapped tourist market.

"We will now have the best of both worlds. Our local clientele will always be our staple but with the addition of tourist customers, Salon de Manila—or Salon—will be in better shape than ever before," she said.

Maniacop also said the Salon will also make life easier for local guests of Fiesta Resort and Spa that have scheduled weddings, christenings, debuts, and other special occasions at the Garapan landmark.

"They don't have to drive to a parlor in a different part of Saipan then go to the hotel for the special event. Salon can do their hairstyling, makeup, and etc. and they could just step out of the parlor and into the event they've been invited to."

CONTACT INFO

To schedule appointments or for more information, call:
- 234-6412/7171 ext. 1423
- Direct line: 233-2652

Its address may have changed, but the expert hairstyling, makeup, overall pampering, and superb customer service will not.

Salon de Manila pioneers Elizabeth Ishiwata, Lilia Castro, and Julia Ebias along with Rhea Cauzon will continue to be at the beck and call of Salon's clients and armed with the latest trends in the beauty industry.

Ishiwata worked at a popular beauty parlor in the Philippines' trendy Shopsville Shopping Mall in Greenhills before moving to Saipan in 1999. She has worked for Salon de Manila since it opened in October 2001.

Her batchmate, Castro, also worked in a beauty parlor in Manila's Broadway Centrum before coming to the CNMI in 1992.

Ebias, for his part, was a staff of Paul Vincent and Jun Perez in the Philippines and made his move to Saipan in 1996. Like Ishiwata and Castro, Ebias has been with the company since 2001.

Before coming to Saipan in 1991, Cauzon, meanwhile, worked with famed Filipino international beauty hairdresser and makeup artist Jun Encarnacion. He started working at Salon de Manila in April 2003.

Salon's business hours are from 10am to 8pm Mondays to Thursday. On Fridays and Saturdays it is from 10am to 10pm, while the schedule on Sunday is from 10am to 6pm.

Salon is also open for special appointments. To schedule appointments or for more information about Salon, call 234-6412/7171 ext. 1423 or direct line 233-2652. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

From left, Rhea Cauzon, Elizabeth Ishiwata, Lilia Castro, and Julia Ebias pose outside the Salon at the ground floor of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2nd Annual Family Fun Fair tomorrow

Organizers are ready for the Second Annual Family Fun Fair this Saturday, with several exciting programs for children and their parents at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Kilili Beach from 6am until noon.

Sponsored by the Coalition of Anti-Stigmas Mental Illness-CNMI, Mental Health Planning Council, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy and Systems Inc., Community Guidance Center, Statewide Independent Living Council, the activities will kick-off with the Walk-A-Thon at 6:30am.

All participants are encouraged to join the Tai Chi demonstration to be led by Barry Wicksman starting at 8:30am.

This will be followed by a Cha-Cha/Reggae Contest. Winners of the essay contest will be announced later during the activities.

One of the biggest attractions of the day will be the season's opening race of high school paddlers. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the **SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota.** The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. Minimum offer - $700,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
3. Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
4. Sunset Villa is being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Unless otherwise proposed and accepted by CDA, the remaining balance shall be due within ten (10) business days of the award. Failure to make payment of that remaining balance within ten (10) business days shall result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

Interested party or person are asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" attention Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director. Deadline to submit proposal is **4:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2009.**

Dated this 27th day of April, 2009.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

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DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC closed on May 1 and 2 for training

All Northern Marianas College faculty, staff, and student employees will be participating in a Student Learning and Assessment training on Friday and Saturday (May 1 and 2, 2009). NMC will be closed on these days; normal operations will resume on Monday, May 4, 2009.

Students who have classes on these days should contact their instructor(s) for specific information about rescheduled/canceled classes. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding of NMC's ongoing professional development activities. For urgent matters, contact the NMC Security Office at 234-5498 Extension 1911. ***(PR)***

NMC 2009 Graduation Candidates meeting

Spring 2009 Graduation Candidates of the Northern Marianas College are invited to attend the Graduation Committee Meeting scheduled for May 2, 2009 (Saturday), at the Student Support Services (SSS) office located in Building J on the NMC campus at 2pm.

The meeting will feature updates on the 2009 Graduation Commencement, Charter Day Planning, and Mass/Banquet Planning. For more information, please contact Jack Kiyoshi, Jr., at 234-5498 Ext. 1021, or e-mail jackk@nmcnet.edu. All students preparing to graduate in May 2009 are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. ***(NMC)***

Deadline today for NMC Charter Day vendors

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee is inviting different agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the upcoming Charter Day celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g. coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, and retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc). The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces has been extended to today, May 1, 2009.

The Charter Day Celebration will be held on May 8, 2009, at the As Terlaje Campus from 4pm to 11pm. The event is one of NMC's largest and most-attended events. This year, the celebration will showcase a broad range of entertainment, including a variety of live band performances, cultural dance presentations, and highly anticipated competitions, such as Marianas Idol, CNMI's Best Dance Crew, and the Battle of the Bands. Groups may reserve booth space by paying the $100 one-time fee (which covers the tent booth and access to 110v electricity outlets). For more information, please contact Perry Inos at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email perryi@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Physics lecture today

What's really in the middle of a black hole? (It's not what most scientist think.) Find out what everything in the universe is really made of and how it works! First in a series on the resonant field theory. The final solution to Einstein's quest for a working Theory of Everything. Logical, intuitive and easy to prove and understand. Attend the Advanced Physics lecture today, May 1, 2009, 7pm at the American Memorial Park. Doors open at 6pm. Sessions last two hours, with a break in the middle, followed by questions and answers on the 2nd floor. Instructor will be John N. Hait, professor of resonant fields at the Rocky Mountain Research Center. More info: john@hait.org; www.EinsteinCode.info. Tuition is $10 at the door. For $7 discount prepaid tickets online, prior to May 1, go to www.EinsteinCode.info. ***(PR)***

Eucon to hold art exhibit by non-Art students

Eucon International School and College will hold its first art exhibit by non-Art students. Opening ceremony and ribbon cutting will be on Monday, May 4, 6:30pm and will run up to Saturday, May 9. The exhibit will be open to the public. Venue of the exhibit is the Agape Auditorium at the Eucon campus. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule for May 2009

May 6, 2009 LIVE – Replays 5/10 and 5/11 at 7-8pm

■ Highlighting Teachers Appreciation & Teachers as Key to Student Success

■ PSS teachers

May 13, 2009 LIVE – Replays 5/17 and 5/18 at 7-8pm

n Emergency Medical Services for children and adults

■ Firemen Thomas I. Manglona, Maynard Duenas, Frank Sablan

May 20, 2009 LIVE @ 7-8 pm – Replays 5/24 and 5/25 at 7-8 pm

■ Living with Cancer in the CNMI & Marianas March Against Cancer

■ Cancer survivors and MMAC 2009 representative

May 27, 2009 LIVE – Replays 5/31 and 6/1 at 7-8pm

■ PSS stimulus funding opportunities

■ PSS Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, EdD., PSS Federal Programs Tim Thornburgh, and PSS Financial Consultant Ed S. Tenorio

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2. LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon resumes next Friday

Puengin Inetnon will resume again starting on Friday, May 8, at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. It will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Kagman Flea Market next Saturday

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume again starting on Saturday, May 9 at 8am at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only $5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

TASTE OF THE
MARIANAS
2009
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN
AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2009
Saturday, May 2, 2009
6:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony - Lion Dance
National Anthem - Nicollette Lopez
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Tropikool Blendz Band
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Inatuas Cultural Dancers
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Welippal Cultural Dancers
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Parker Yamazaki Yobei
2009 Taste of the Marianas Food Festival vendors:
1. Aqua Resort Club, Saipan
2. Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
3. Hafadai Beach Hotel
4. Hyatt Regency Hotel Saipan
5. Pacific Islands Club Saipan
6. Canton Restaurant
7. Saipan World Resort
8. Sierra Pearl Shakes
9. Capricciosa & Tony Roma's
10. D'Elegance Café
11. Herman's Modern Bakery
12. Hula Girl/3's
13. Thai House Restaurant
14. Poon's Restaurant
15. Ty & Tia
2009 Taste of the Marianas Beer Garden Vendors:
Pacific Trading Company
MARPAC
Northern Marianas Bartender Association

"*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit" Islandwear Fridays

Every Friday in May is *Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear Friday! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Share your favorite islandwear shots of yourself, your friends, co-workers, and family on Facebook at "*Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

The highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotels and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. Learn more about the industry through game competitions.

My Marianas Community Outreach Presentation

Learn about the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this slideshow at Taste of the Marianas and Garapan Street Market. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight turns on you, as random community members share their views on various tourism topics in this regular newspaper feature with questions and short answers.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did you Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be air regularly throughout the month on Power 99, 97.9 FM The KAT, and 103.9 FM KZMI.

KSPN 2 Tourism Month Calendar

May Tourism Month events are highlighted through out the month on cable television for your easy reference on KSPN2.

For more information contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at telephone numbers (670) 664-3200/01.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, May 07, 2009at 5:30 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
   5. Communications
B. Reports
   1. Chairman
   2. Secretary
   3. Treasurer
   4. Administrator
   5. Committees
   6. Legal Counsel
C. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide
   1. Conditional Use 2009-0959 JP International Trade Corporation
   2. Conditional Use 2009-0119 Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
D. Old Business.
   1. Update on 2008-0302 LaoLao Bay Resort shoreline access progress report
   2. Discussion on hiring of Zoning Administrator
   3. Process for updating the Zoning Board regulations and Zoning Law
E. New Business
   1. Review new rezone proposals and approve advertising for public comment
F. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The wreck of the *Nam Sung 62* lies north of Tatqua Beach on Rota. Other picture shows the beach after the wreck was removed.

Abandoned wreck removed after 26 years

On July 20, 1982, the *Nam Sung 62*, a commercial fishing vessel transporting its cargo via Guam to Japan was shipwrecked on a reef crest just north of Tatqua Beach on Rota.

For the next 26 years, it rested on the reef crest, deteriorating and breaking apart and dispersing its rusted metal debris and leftover contents throughout the lagoon waters and shoreline.

The all-metal vessel measured 42.50 meters from foreside to stern and weighed an estimated 287 tons.

On Sept. 19, 2007, the Coastal Resources Management Office began the attempt to remove the vessel, with financial assistance of $6,000 awarded through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with NOAA's Marine Debris Program.

CRM Rota coastal coordinator William T. Pendergrass, who acted as the Nam Sung project manager, worked with D& J Enterprises owner Fidel Mendiola and Marianas Visitor Authority operations manager Thomas Calvo to spearhead the extraction of the dilapidated vessel's metal debris, with the help of government and community partners.

"When the vessel removal activities first started we focused on satisfying NFWF grant project deliverables, which specifically outlined removal of the Nam Sung # 62 vessel debris," said Pendergrass. "This was a challenge because there were separated parts of the vessel almost everywhere within the lagoon waters and the shoreline. The removal activities were dependant on forecasted weather, tidal conditions, equipment operability, manpower availability, and regulatory compliance.

He said the project was successfully completed in the Aug. 24-29, 2008 cleanup. It was estimated that by this time they had removed 80 tons of the vessel's rusted remains.

It was not enough, though, as there were still several parts of the ship that needed to be removed. Pendergrass said he met with CRMO director John Joyner about the subject and Joyner was receptive to the idea of removing the entire ships wreckage from the coast.

"We were provided an additional $4,401 by the [CRMO] to completely remove all visible wreckage of the *Nam Sung* from the project site. With new funding the project activities continued again from March 26 and lasted through April 8, 2009. It was estimated that the project removal efforts between the Sept. 19, 2007 start and the April 8, 2009 conclusion resulted in the extraction of over 200 tons of the shipwrecked vessel's wreckage from the coast of Rota," said Pendergrass.

In recognition and acknowledgement for participation in the successful extraction of the *Nam Sung* vessel activities, a special appreciation certificate was awarded by the CRMO to Rota Resort & Country Club, Guam Pacific Power Corp., Rota Marianas Visitor Authority, D&J Enterprises, Rota Department of Public Works, Rota Department of Public Safety, Fred Barcinas (D&J), Shawn Taisacan (DPS), Rai Manglona (DPS), Noel Pumares (D&J), Vicent Manglona (MVA), Murphy Reyes (MVA), Delphin Garcia (MVA), Furukawa Akio (D&J), Thomas Calvo (MVA), Ike Mendiola (Channel Five), Calista Pendergrass (Cape Air/ Continental Connection), Rota Mayor Joseph Inos, Sandra Atalig (MVA), Alfred Maratita (MVA), Mike Manglona (DPW), Gary Toves (DEQ), and Robert Ulloa (DFW). ***(PR)***

HARD TIMES...

You may want to start grazing a cow for your meal or just clearing your vacant lot.

Select the cow of your choice this
Friday, May 01, 4:00 p.m.
San Vicente Village
Call 789-7587 for more information.

TAGAMAN
20TH SAIPAN TAGAMAN TRIATHLON
ALL ISLANDERS CHAMPIONSHIP
2009

Message of Appreciation

Taga, Inc., the organizing committee of the 20th Annual Tagaman Triathlon, 8th Annual Saipan XTERRA Championship and 8th Taga Kids Triathlon would like to thank the following businesses and agencies for making these events a great success:

- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Saipan Mayor's Office
- Commonwealth Health Center
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Parks & Recreation
- American Memorial Park
- Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan
- Top Notch
- Saipan Agogo
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- JTL Timing
- Athlete's Foot
- Xterra Japan
- Next Stage
- Top Development Inc.
- Seafix
- Competitor Magazine
- Kinpachi Restaurant
- Northern Marianas National Soccer Team
- Jerry Facey
- Jesus Attao
- Mark Hanson
- Frank Camacho
- Sebastian Tudela
- Mariano Camacho
- Bill Ada
- Donald Barcinas
- Frank Castro
- Sam Martisan
- Joe Torres
- American Red Cross
- Island Apparel
- Saipan Tribune
- Elite Printing
- Northern Marianas Triathlon Federation
- Far East Broadcasting Company
- Amateur Radio Club of Saipan
- Pacific Development Inc.
- Microl Corporation
- World Tour & Travel
- JM & Associates
- Dollar Rent A Car
- Saipan Swimming Club
- First Hawaiian Bank
- KFC Triathlon Club of Saipan
- Horizon's, Inc.
- Team Unlimited
- Renegade Racing
- Saipan Bike Pro Shop
- Marianas High School National Honor Society
- Division of Boating Safety
- Bobbie Grizzard
- Frank Sablan
- David Wiseman
- Rick Torres
- Herman Guerrero
- Mike Kukkum
- Keith Augenbaugh
- Ambrosio Ogumoro
- Nancy Kelchner
- James Hofschneider
- B.J. Attao

Special thanks to the general public for their kind understanding and support in making these events successful. Since we already started planning for next year's Saipan Sportsfest, we would like to kindly solicit the continuing support and cooperation of those above and the general public.

Conveniently located on Lower Navy Hill, 5-minute walk to Commonwealth Health Center. Newly renovated building with 3-bedroom 2 bathrooms. EPA approved solar water heaters. Free Wi-Fi. Rooftop deck facility for BBQ or Party. Air-condition in all bedrooms.

LNH APARTMENTS

Conveniently located on Finasisu road, only 5-minute walk to Northern Marianas College. Close to stores and schools, Finasisu Terraces features a convenient, spacious parking area. Fully furnished air-conditioned units and ready to move in. Two bedroom units available.

FINASISU TERRACES

Spacious two bedroom terrace apartments with a beautiful view of Western Saipan from Navy Hill. All units feature a private balcony are fully furnished, air-conditioned and feature FREE wireless DSL internet service.

OCEANVIEW TERRACES

SUNSETVIEW TERRACES

Realty Management Services
A TanHoldings Company

Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All our properties are equipped with ff. amenities Laundry Area Free trash collection 24-hr water and power Night-time Security Guard On call maintenance staff Ample parking space Cable ready Close to stores and schools For more information please call 285-1317 and look for Jeremy MIHA applicants are welcome & special rates for NMC Faculty Staff, PSS and Military Personnel.

PMB 521 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950-8900 • Tel: 1(670) 235-6527/28 • Fax: (670) 235-6530 • sales@rmssaipan.com • www.saipan-properties.com

NMC to hold auditions for Charter Day competitions

The Northern Marianas College 2009 Charter Day Committee will be holding auditions for the celebration's three main competitions: the Marianas Idol, Charter Day Dance Crew, and Battle of the Bands. Marianas Idol auditions will be held on May 4, Charter Day Dance Crew on May 5, and Battle of the Bands on May 6. All auditions will begin at 5pm. Finalists for all three competitions will be performing at the festivities on May 8.

The competitions will be judged on categories that include stage presentation, entertainment value, and overall performance. Five finalists will be selected for Marianas Idol, five crews for the Dance Crew Competition, and three bands for Battle of the Bands.

Those interested in competing may pick up an application form from the NMC Student Center in Building J at the College's As Terlaje campus. There is no application fee for any of the competitions.

The Charter Day festivities will also be showcasing the talent and performances of several well-known groups on the island, including Uncle Ben's, local dance group Inatuas, Carolinian Dancers, and Latte Vibes. The event will also include the musical fusions of Club V's DJ Jeyrock.

In addition to the exciting entertainment, there will also be several vendors featuring island delicacies and specialty drinks for sale. Sponsors for the event include IT&E, Power 99, Pepsi, Shell Marianas, and Ericco Enterprises.

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call Perry Inos Jr. at 234-5498 Ext. 1253 or email perryi@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

A member Northern Marianas College Recruitment Committee assists individuals in filling out the various forms required for enrollment at the College. Admissions staff will be available at the Recruitment Committee Booth at the Charter Day Celebration next Friday, May 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Recruitment Committee to host booth at Charter Day

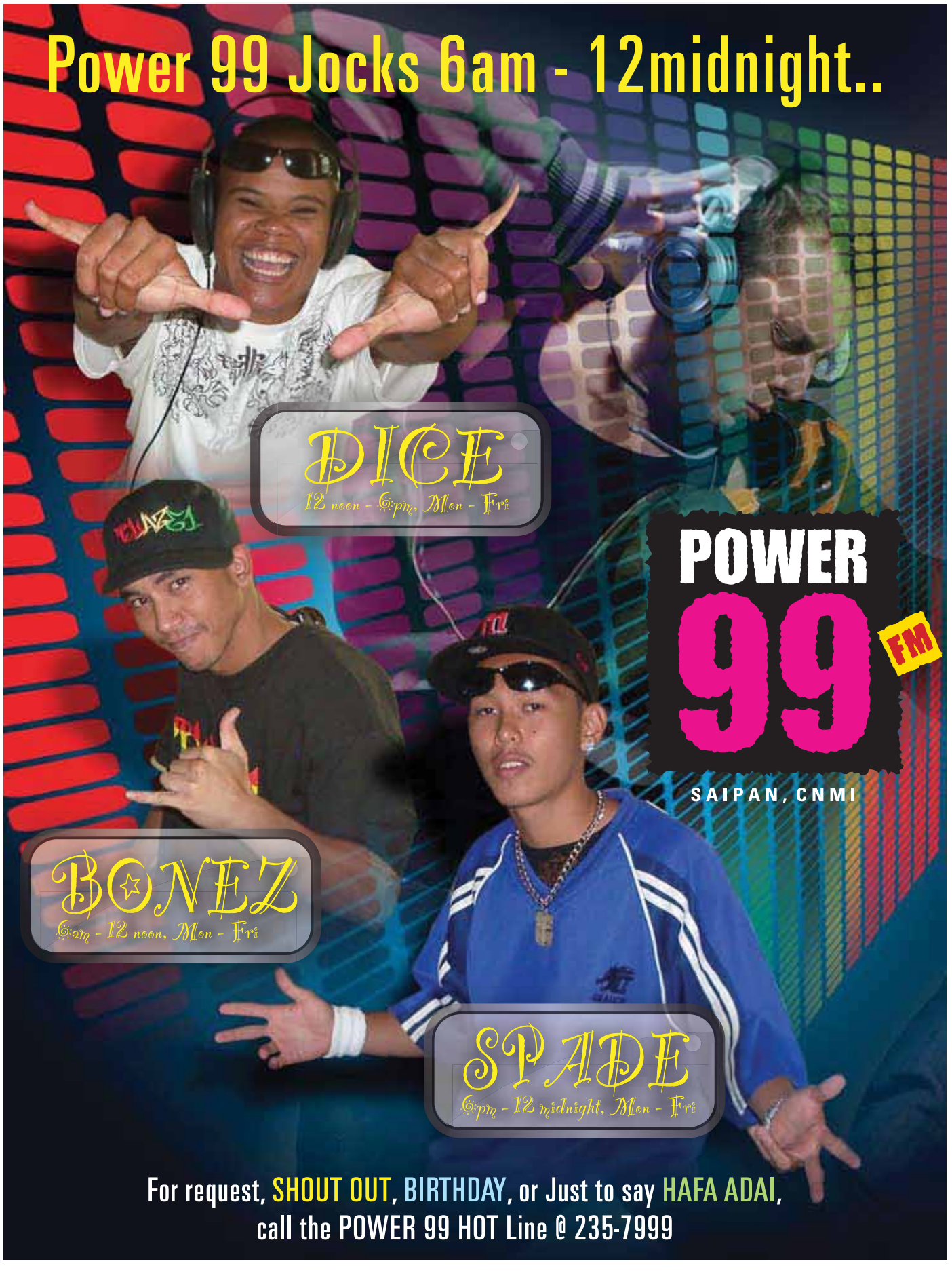
The Northern Marianas College Recruitment Committee will be hosting a booth at the Charter Day Celebration, which is scheduled for next Friday, May 8, from 4pm to 11pm. Interested individuals will be able to pick up admissions applications for the Summer and Fall 2009 semesters, class schedules, and other documents pertaining to enrolling in the College's various programs and services.

Visitors to the booth will also receive waivers for the College's application and English and math placement test fees, which represent a savings of $75. Admissions staff will also be available at the booth to answer questions.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Charter Day will also feature the highly-anticipated Marianas Idol Competition, which will feature some of the CNMI's most talented singers competing for the title of 2009 Marianas Idol as well as prizes donated by the event's sponsors. Other competitions will include the NMC Charter Day Dance Crew Competition, the Battle of the Bands, and the Miss Pugua Beauty Pageant.

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call Perry Inos, Jr., at 234-5498 ext. 1253 or email perryi@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***


Power 99 Jocks 6am - 12midnight..
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6am - 12 noon, Mon - Fri
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6pm - 12 midnight, Mon - Fri
For request, SHOUT OUT, BIRTHDAY, or Just to say HAFA ADAI,
call the POWER 99 HOT Line @ 235-7999

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For Construction of a Ports Police Guard House
located at the West Access Gate
of the Saipan International Airport
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Project No. CPA-SA-008-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from construction firms/companies for the construction of a Police Guard House at the west access gate of the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax and the associated costs for security access to the airport's sterile area.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2009**.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: April 14, 2009

Business

Consumers give spark of new hope for econ revival

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumers are snapping back to life, kindling springtime hopes that the recession is losing steam.

Even though the economy shrank again in the first three months of the year—and by a lot—Americans stepped up their purchases of cars, furniture and appliances. The surge in consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of the economy, could set the stage for a rebound later this year.

Hopes for revival depend on those consumers, who have been fortified by fatter paychecks from tax cuts and smaller mortgage payments from refinancings. If they keep buying, businesses will need to boost production, feeding yet more economic activity.

Against that backdrop, many analysts think the economy is sinking less now than it did from January through March. Most believe it could start growing again by summer or, more likely, by the final quarter of this year. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues, opting against further action Wednesday to shore up the economy, detected glimmers that the recession might be easing.

"The pace of contraction appears to be somewhat slower," Fed policymakers said in a statement a few hours after the government released its report showing a second straight big quarterly drop in the nation's gross domestic product.

On Wall Street, stocks jumped higher. The Dow Jones industrials gained nearly 170 points.

Source: Chrysler lender talks break off

DETROIT (AP)—Talks between Chrysler LLC's lenders and the Treasury Department to reduce the automaker's $6.9 billion in secured debt and keep it out of bankruptcy protection have disintegrated, a person familiar with the talks said early Thursday.

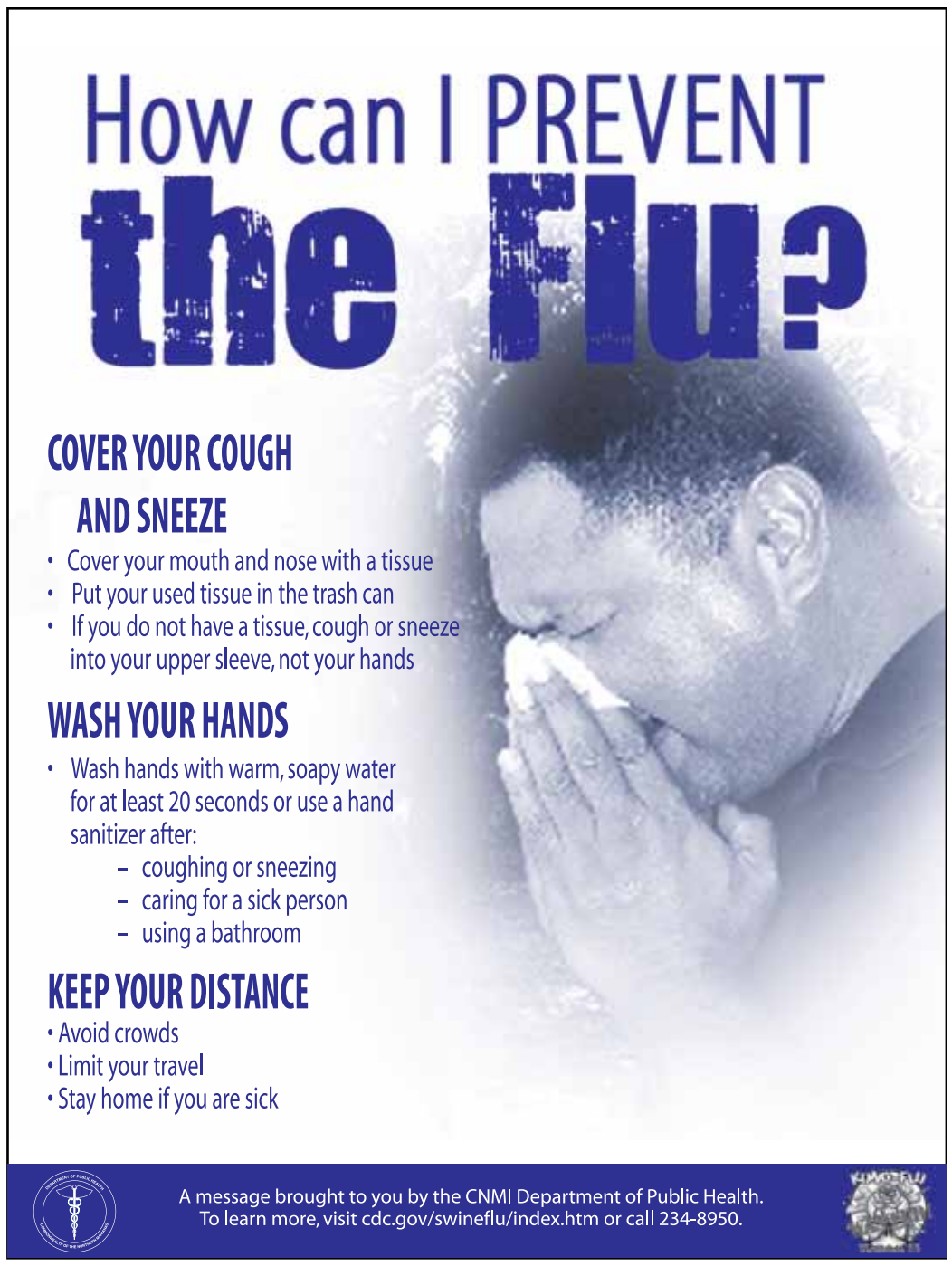
Chrysler's fate was in the hands of about 40 hedge funds that hold about 30 percent of its debt. Although four banks holding 70 percent of the debt had agreed to erase it for $2 billion, the hedge funds were holding out for a better deal.

To entice the hedge funds into going along with the banks, the government on Wednesday afternoon added $250 million to the $2 billion that the banks had settled for and gave the hedge funds a 6 p.m. deadline to work it out, two people briefed on the talks said.

All of the people spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were private.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, speaking in Lansing at a news conference about the swine flu, had urged them to consider Chrysler's 54,000 employees.

"On behalf of Michigan, on behalf of the thousands of people who will be affected if this company is forced into bankruptcy, I am publicly asking these hedge funds to not be greedy but to do what the banks have done and what everyone else around the table has done—take the concessions," she said.


How can I PREVENT the flu?
COVER YOUR COUGH AND SNEEZE
• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue
• Put your used tissue in the trash can
• If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands
WASH YOUR HANDS
• Wash hands with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer after:
– coughing or sneezing
– caring for a sick person
– using a bathroom
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
• Avoid crowds
• Limit your travel
• Stay home if you are sick
A message brought to you by the CNMI Department of Public Health.
To learn more, visit cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm or call 234-8950.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Tuesday, May 5*, 2009, at *10:00 a.m.* on the application of *PTI Services, Inc.*, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *expansion and operation of its call center*, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further information.*** For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities
P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950

Commercial Office Space for Rent

The NMI Council for the Humanities is soliciting formal proposals from businesses or individuals who have commercial office space for rent on Saipan. The Council is seeking an office space on the ground floor with approximately 1,000 square feet of space.

Other requirements include:
A. Common area maintenance
B. Air Conditioning
C. 24 hours water available
D. Available for rent for two to five years, with option for renewal
E. Trash Collection

The deadline to submit Proposal Packages are due on May 15, 2009 at 4:00pm. All Proposal Packages must be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan.

This announcement does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the Council in any way. The NMI Council for the Humanities is a private, non-profit organization affiliated with the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, please call us at 235-4785.

/s/ Dr. Debra T. Cabrera
Chair, NMICH

/s/ Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director, NMICH

Nation

Little boy, far from home, 1st US swine flu death

HOUSTON (AP)—He was not yet 2, far from home and dying. The first victim of swine flu in the U.S. was a Mexican toddler who struggled to survive for weeks in Texas hospitals—long before it was known doctors were dealing with an international outbreak.

Now the hunt is on to find anyone who came into contact with the little boy while he visited relatives in the border city of Brownsville from his home in Mexico City.

The state's health director, Dr. David Lakey, at an Austin news conference, called it "highly likely" that the boy contracted the disease in Mexico before his trip to the U.S.

Officials in Brownsville are trying to trace his family's trip to find out how long they were in the area, who they visited and how many people were in the group, said Cameron County Judge Carlos Cascos.

The boy, who was 23 months old, had "underlying health issues" before he flew to Matamoros, Mexico, on April 4 and crossed into Brownsville to visit relatives, state health officials said.

He developed flu symptoms four days later and was taken to a Brownsville hospital April 13 and transferred the following day to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where he died Monday night.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday confirmed that he had been infected with the swine flu virus. The cause of the death was pneumonia caused by the virus, Cascos said.

Health officials insisted the boy posed no contagion threat to Houston. He had no contact with other patients at Texas Children's Hospital and none of the staff was exposed, said Dr. Jeffrey Starke, the hospital's director of infectious disease.

This case "shouldn't trigger any undue alarm in the community," Starke told a news conference. "The child did not acquire the virus in Houston, Texas."

Dr. Brian Smith, regional director of the Texas Department of State Health Services, said antiviral treatments were given to family members who had close contact with the child and none had contracted swine flu. He said that with the virus' short incubation period, health officials would have begun seeing secondary cases among the child's close contacts by now, but none has appeared.

Although the boy wasn't initially identified as a swine flu case, Starke said concern grew over the last several days as news of the virus intensified.

AP

Eleven-month-old Carson Gazalski attends the Camp Fire USA Child Care and Development Center in Fort Worth, Texas, where extra precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of swine flu, Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

Scientists struggle to understand swine flu virus

ATLANTA (AP)—Mexico's health secretary may have thought he was allaying fears about swine flu when he suggested that the nation's swine flu death rate was 6 or 7 percent. In reality, that would mean a monstrous killer virus—and no experts are close to saying that. The secretary's comment reflects how much remains unknown about the new flu virus—most notably how lethal it is and why it seems so much deadlier in Mexico than anywhere else.

American health officials believe they are getting closer to answering those questions, or, at least, to ruling out wrong-headed theories.

"We've begun to knock off hypotheses," said Dr. Scott F. Dowell, director of global disease detection with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Among the factors disease detectives have discounted are Mexico's air pollution, secondary infections and poor health care. But they still do not know why so many Mexicans have died, although it could be because many more people actually have had the virus than health officials realize.

In Mexico, the virus is suspected of killing more than 150 people and sickening more than 2,400. Recent information suggests swine flu-related hospital admissions and deaths may have peaked and are declining, but no other country has shown any numbers close to those seen in Mexico.

The only other country to report a swine flu death is the United States, and that involved a toddler from Mexico who was visiting Texas with his family.

The leading theory remains that the virus itself is not significantly different in Mexico, but that the outbreak has for some reason just hit harder there, infecting more people overall. The more people who are infected, the more likely there will be severe cases and even deaths.

Obama says waterboarding was torture

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Wednesday night that waterboarding authorized by former President George W. Bush was torture and that the information it gained from terror suspects could have been obtained by other means. "In some cases, it may be harder," he conceded at a White House news conference capping a whirlwind first 100 days in office.

Obama

Obama also expressed much greater optimism now than a month ago that Chrysler could remain a "going concern," possibly without filing for bankruptcy or with a "very quick" one. Obama did not say so, but Italian automaker Fiat Group SpA is expected to sign a partnership agreement with Chrysler LLC by Thursday as part of negotiations to keep the struggling U.S. automaker alive without bankruptcy protection.

The president gave assurance that one way or another Pakistan's nuclear arsenal would not fall into the hands of Islamic extremists. He said he was confident "primarily, initially" because he believes Pakistan will handle the issue on its own. But he left the door open to eventual U.S. action to secure the weapons if need be.

The prime-time news conference was the third of Obama's presidency and the first not dominated by a recession that has thrown millions of Americans out of work.

At a town-hall style meeting in Missouri earlier in the day, as well as in the White House East Room, Obama said progress has been made in rebuilding the economy, yet more remains to be done.

"You can expect an unrelenting, unyielding effort from this administration to strengthen our prosperity and our security—in the second hundred days, and the third hundred days, and all the days after," he said in opening his news conference.

He called on Congress to enact his ambitious all-at-once agenda, including education spending to produce a better-trained work force, greater support for renewable energy development, a high-priced system for companies to buy and sell rights to emit dangerous pollutants, a vast expansion of health insurance and new rules to rein in the riskiest Wall Street behavior.

Congress adopts budget plan endorsing Obama goals

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrats in Congress capped President Barack Obama's 100th day in office by advancing a $3.4 trillion federal budget for next year—a third of it borrowed—that prevents Republicans from blocking his proposed trillion-dollar expansion of government-provided health care over the next decade.

Wednesday's House and Senate votes to adopt the nonbinding budget blueprint were only a first step toward Obama's goal of providing health care coverage for all Americans. The budget plan for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 sets the parameters for subsequent tax and spending bills expected to boost clean energy programs and student aid and extend many of former President George W. Bush's tax cuts.

"It's a budget that reduces taxes, lowers the deficit and creates jobs," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said. "It honors the three pillars of the Obama initiatives: energy, health care and education."

Obama cheered passage of the plan, saying in a statement that it "builds on the steps we've taken over the last 100 days to move this economy from recession to recovery and ultimately to prosperity."

ACROSS THE NATION

Bakery group leader accused of ordering 3 murders

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The former leader of an Oakland community group and an associate were indicted on three first-degree murder counts Wednesday involving the killing of a journalist investigating the group and two other deaths. The former leader of the now-defunct Your Black Muslim Bakery group, Yusuf Bey IV, 23, was accused of ordering the shooting death of Oakland Post Editor Chauncey Bailey as he walked to work. Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero said Antoine Mackey, 23, was also accused in connection with the three murders.

Drowning deaths raise toll from Kan. storms to 5

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—The death toll from days of heavy rain in Kansas rose to five Wednesday when authorities found the bodies of two people in a car submerged in a flooded creek. A 26-year-old Parsons man and a 22-year-old Springfield, Mo., woman were found by Labette County sheriff's deputies in Pumpkin Creek in southeast Kansas, the state Division of Emergency Management said. The couple had been reported missing Tuesday evening. Authorities believe they were traveling west on a road and were swept into the creek at a low-water crossing. The five storm-related deaths have occurred in northeast, southeast and south-central Kansas since Saturday. More rain was expected Thursday and flood warnings were posted for communities along several eastern Kansas rivers.

Montana fires a warning shot over states' rights

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—Montana is trying to trigger a battle over gun control—and perhaps make a larger point about what many folks in this ruggedly independent state regard as a meddlesome federal government. In a bill passed by the Legislature earlier this month, the state is asserting that guns manufactured in Montana and sold in Montana to people who intend to keep their weapons in Montana are exempt from federal gun registration, background check and dealer-licensing rules because no state lines are crossed. That notion is all but certain to be tested in court. The immediate effect of the law could be limited, since Montana is home to just a few specialty gun makers, known for high-end hunting rifles and replicas of Old West weapons, and because their out-of-state sales would automatically trigger federal control.

Asia

Taliban threatens wave of attacks against US surge

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban vowed Wednesday to launch a wave of attacks in a spring offensive as a surge of American troops arrives in Afghanistan, a threat delivered on the same day that 42 militants were reported killed in clashes.

Taliban leaders regularly boast of impending attacks that never materialize—such as proclaiming that hundreds or thousands of suicide bombers were waiting to attack around the country—but the new threat from a top-tier commander could signal a more aggressive stance.

A U.S. military spokesman said the Taliban's warning showed the militants are worried by the rising number of international troops.

Mullah Berader, a top deputy to Taliban commander Mullah Omar, said the Taliban would unleash ambushes, roadside bombings and suicide attacks Thursday against foreign and Afghan troops, government officials and "whoever is supporting invaders in our country."

"As American and NATO countries plan to send more troops to Afghanistan, it is necessary for the Afghans and Afghan mujahedeen to defend their country," militant spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press in a statement that he attributed to Berader.

Taliban fighters have increased attacks the last three years in a resurgence following the toppling of their radical Islamist regime by a U.S.-led invasion in late 2001.

President Barack Obama has ordered 21,000 more U.S. troops to the country to bolster the 38,000 American and 32,000 allied troops already in the country.

Southeast Asian health mins to meet on swine flu

BANGKOK (AP)—Health ministers from Southeast Asian countries will meet, probably in early May in the Thai capital, to discuss how to deal with the swine flu crisis, the head of area's regional grouping said Wednesday.

Surin Pitsuwan, the secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, said the ministers "should get together at the earliest time possible," according to a press release from the group.

None of ASEAN's 10 member countries have yet confirmed any cases of swine flu, but scores of tests were being carried out on anyone reporting flu symptoms. South Korea was awaiting final test results in a "probable" case, and New Zealand has confirmed 14 infections—the first in the Asia-Pacific region—all in people recently returned from Mexico.

"The Thai Ministry of Public Health has expressed its readiness to host the meeting in Bangkok most probably in early May," Surin was quoted saying after he held consultations with Thailand and the Philippines. The announcement said the Philippines would chair the meeting.

Thailand's reputation as a suitable venue for regional meetings was cast into doubt earlier this month when a mob of anti-government demonstrators broke into a popular resort hotel hosting a summit of ASEAN and other Asian leaders, forcing its cancellation. Surin is a former Thai foreign minister and was a senior member of the Democrat Party of current Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea to lift ban on human stem cell research

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea will lift a three-year ban on human stem cell research, a presidential advisory committee announced Wednesday. The government outlawed research in 2006 following a scandal involving disgraced cloning expert Hwang Woo-suk, who claimed to have created stem cells from cloned human embryos. Hwang scandalized the international scientific community when it emerged that scientific papers outlining his claim relied on faked data. Hwang, at the time the only South Korean scientist permitted to conduct human stem cell research, was stripped of the license to carry out the controversial studies. Stem cells are master cells that can be induced to develop into any type of bodily tissue. Scientists say using stem cells in research could lead to revolutionary cures for hard-to-treat diseases such as Parkinson's and diabetes. The National Bioethics Committee, a presidential advisory group, said Wednesday it has decided to allow a Seoul hospital to conduct work on human stem cells.

Malaysia rules McDonald's has no monopoly on 'Mc'

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's Appeal Court ruled Wednesday that U.S. fast food giant McDonald's cannot claim an exclusive right to the 'Mc' prefix in the country, allowing a local food outlet to keep its name, a report said. A three-member Appeal Court panel overturned a 2006 high court ruling, saying there was no evidence to show that McCurry Restaurant was passing off McDonald's business as its own, national Bernama news agency reported. Appeal Court Judge Gopal Sri Ram said the high court had "erred" in assuming that McDonald's had an exclusive right to the use of the prefix, Bernama reported. He said McCurry's signboard has white and gray letters against a red background with a picture of a smiling chicken giving a double thumbs-up, in contrast to McDonald's red and yellow "M" logo. McCurry also serves only Indian food, not competing with McDonald's Western menu, he said.

Sri Lankan rebels say they will not surrender

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The Tamil Tigers said Thursday they would never surrender to the advancing Sri Lankan forces and appealed to the international community to work harder for a cease-fire in the country's bloody civil war. Sri Lanka has refused growing diplomatic pressure to stop its offensive against the rebel group's last stronghold in the northeast to safeguard the estimated 50,000 civilians trapped in the area. "If any country really cares about these people, I ask that country to go beyond its 'diplomatic boundaries' for the sake of saving human lives and make Sri Lanka stop this genocidal war," rebel political chief Balasingam Nadesan told The Associated Press in an e-mail interview from the war zone. Nadesan's comments came a day after the British and French foreign ministers traveled to Sri Lanka to push for a humanitarian truce and access for aid workers to the war zone.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
ENERGY DIVISION
P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4480 / Fax No. (670) 664-4483 / e-mail: Energy@pticom.com

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Governor in cooperation with the Department of Public Works/Energy Division will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) State Plan for Program Year 2009 for funding through the American Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The general public as well as interested parties are welcome to comment on the proposed State Plan. The public hearing will be held at the Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria on Thursday, May 7, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A copy of the State Plan can be picked up at the Energy Division, Capital Hill, House #1337 on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

For those who cannot attend the public hearing in person, may submit their written comments to the Energy Division, Capital Hill, House #1337, Saipan; or can be e-mailed to: energy@pticom.com or by mail to P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 on or before close of business on Monday, May 11, 2009.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP:

Commonwealth Téél falúw kka falúwasch Efáng Marianas (CNMI), Bwulasiyool Sów Lemelem fengál me Bwulasiyool Public Works/Energy Division rebwe ayoora arongorongol toulap (public hearing) reel pomwol Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) llól ráágh ye 2009, e tooto salaapial me American Reinvestment Act (ARRA) llól 2009.

Alongeer aramas me ngáre inaamwo iyo nge emmwel ebwe ayeghelong reel pomwol State Plan yeel.

Rebwe ayoora ammataf yeel me Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria wóól Weipis, Ghúúw 7, 2009 ótol 5:00 leefáf mwete ngáli 6:00 leefáf.

Emmwel óubwe bwughi tilighial State Plan yeel mereel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House #1337 wool Mwattis, Ghuuw 5, 2009.

Schóókka ese mmwel rebwe tabweey arongorong yeel, nge emmwel rebwe ischilong reel Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House # 1337, Seipel, me emmwel ubwe e-mail reel: energy@pticom.com me ngáre afanga reel P.O. Boz 500340, Seipel, MP 96950 wóól me ngáre mmwal igha ebwe tittilo ótol angaang wóól Luunis, Ghúúw 11, 2009

INEKUNGOK PUPBLIKU

I Commonwealth I Sankanttan na Islan Mariana siha (CNMI), Ofisinan I Gobietno yan I Depatamenton Public Works, Dibision Energy para u kondukta inekungok pupbliku para u maresibe mensahe pot I propositon Programan Weatherization Assistance (WAP) State Plan para I Program Year 2009, ni mafundo ginen I American Reinvestment Act (ARRA) gi 2009.

I Pupbliku hinerat yan I maninteresao na pattida siha man makombida para ufan na-halom inason-niha gi I maproponi na State Plan. I inekungok Pupbliku para guato Southern High School Cafeteria gi Huebes, Mayo 7, 2009, 5:00pm esta 6:00pm.

I Kopian I State Plan Siña machule gi Dibision Energy, Capital Hill, House # 1337 gi Mattes, Mayo 5, 2009

Para ayu siha I tisiña ma'atendi I inekungok, siña manahalom I sinentin-niha gi Dibision Energy Capital Hill house # 1337, Saipan pat e-mail guato energy@pticom.com, osino na hanao gi post P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950 antes de umahuchom I ofisina gi Lunes, Mayo 11, 2009.

/s/ Diego B. Sonsong
Secretary of Public Works

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-017

Paving of Students and Staff Parking Lot for Kagman High School and Koblerville Elementary School - A and B

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Acting Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Paving of Students and Staff Parking Lot for Kagman High School and Koblerville Elementary School, A and B**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after MAY 1, 2009 at Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (**US$150.00**), is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope Of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per **Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and be submitted with the BID preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 20, 2009, 9:30 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Joeten Commercial Bldg. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 20, 2009 to Mr. **Joseph M. Inos**, Director of Technical Services Division, DPW Gualo Rai Office, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW09-IFB-017**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 22, 2009, and must be received no later than June 02, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies maybe cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 5, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 26, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier' Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded through Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax fund collection pursuant to Public Law 16-22.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One hundred dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

World

WHO says swine flu pandemic is imminent

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Global health authorities warned Wednesday that swine flu was threatening to bloom into a pandemic, and the virus spread farther in Europe even as the outbreak appeared to stabilize at its epicenter. A toddler who succumbed in Texas became the first death outside Mexico.

Mexico, taking a drastic step as confirmed swine flu cases doubled to 99, including eight dead, announced it would temporarily suspend all nonessential activity of the federal government and private business from May 1-5. Essential services like transport, supermarkets, trash collection and hospitals will remain open.

New deaths finally seemed to be leveling off after an aggressive public health campaign in Mexico—only one additional confirmed death was announced Wednesday night—but the World Health Organization said the global threat is nevertheless serious enough to ramp up efforts to produce a vaccine against the virus.

"It really is all of humanity that is under threat during a pandemic," WHO Director General Margaret Chan said in Geneva. "We do not have all the answers right now, but we will get them."

■ ■ ■

From Egypt's order that all 300,000 pigs in the country be slaughtered to travel bans and putting the kibosh on kissing, the world is taking drastic—and some say debatable—measures to combat swine flu.

Egypt ordered the pig slaughter even though there hasn't been a single case of swine flu there and no evidence that pigs have spread the disease. Britain, with only five cases, is trying to buy 32 million masks. And in the United States, President Barack Obama said more of the country's 132,000 schools may have to be shuttered.

At airports from Japan to South Korea to Greece and Turkey, thermal cameras were trained on airline passengers to see if any were feverish. And Lebanon discouraged traditional Arab peck-on-the-cheek greetings, even though no one has come down with the virus there.

AP

A doctor holds up a nasal swab test for influenza A as patient Arturo Rincon looks on from behind at a health post where people with swine flu-like symptoms are tested in Mexico City, Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

All this and more, even though world health experts say many of these measures may not stop the disease from spreading. On Wednesday, the World Health Organization raised its pandemic alert to the second-highest level, meaning it believes a global outbreak of the disease is imminent.

"Scientifically speaking, the main thing is that every virus behaves differently," said Joerg Hacker, president of the Robert Koch Institute, Germany's top public health authority. "At the moment, the main issue is to get to know this virus, how it works."

In Germany, where officials confirmed three cases, Lufthansa announced that starting Thursday it will put a doctor aboard all flights to Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak.

Experts said that makes sense: The doctors will be able to field questions from uneasy passengers and tend to anyone who might fall ill.

■ ■ ■

It was the first time the WHO had declared a Phase 5 outbreak, the second-highest on its threat scale, indicating a pandemic could be imminent.

The first U.S. death from the outbreak was a Mexico City toddler who traveled to Texas with family and died Monday night at a Houston hospital. U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius predicted the child would not be the last U.S. death from swine flu.

The virus, a mix of pig, bird and human genes to which people have limited natural immunity, had spread to at least nine countries. In the United States, nearly 100 have been sickened in 11 states.

Eight states closed schools Wednesday, affecting 53,000 students in Texas alone, and President Barack Obama said wider school closings might be necessary to keep crowds from spreading the flu. Mexico has already closed schools nationwide until at least May 6.

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bombs kill at least 41 in Baghdad Shiite area

BAGHDAD (AP)—Twin car bombs ravaged a popular shopping area in Baghdad's biggest Shiite district Wednesday, killing at least 41 people in another powerful strike by suspected Sunni insurgents seeking a return to sectarian chaos. In less than a week, blasts have struck the heart of Shiite traditions and unity: hitting Shiite pilgrims, a revered shrine and now teeming Sadr City in attacks that have claimed nearly 200 lives. The once-powerful Shiite militias have so far largely held back from retaliations—and reopening memories of the back-and-forth bloodshed from Iraq's 2006-7 sectarian slaughters.

Huge ice chunks break away from Antarctic shelf

BERLIN (AP)—Massive ice chunks are crumbling away from a shelf in the western Antarctic Peninsula, researchers said Wednesday, warning that 1,300 square miles of ice—an area larger than Rhode Island—was in danger of breaking off in coming weeks. The Wilkins Ice Shelf had been stable for most of the last century, but began retreating in the 1990s. Researchers believe it was held in place by an ice bridge linking Charcot Island to the Antarctic mainland. But the 127-square-mile (330-square-kilometer) bridge lost two large chunks last year and then shattered completely on April 5.

Off The Wall

Mobile loo's winning wacky warning: Stop, and then go

DETROIT (AP)—A toilet seat that attaches to a trailer hitch has gained national recognition—for a warning label that says you'd better not use it while the vehicle is moving. "The Original Off-Road Commode" won this year's "Wacky Warning Labels" contest, organizers announced Wednesday. The contest, now in its 12th year, is intended to highlight claims that frivolous lawsuits have distorted the U.S. civil justice system.

Steve Shiflett of Hampton, Ga., won $500 for submitting the toilet seat's warning that it's "not for use on moving vehicles."

Hunters are a chief target audience for the toilet seat, which is sold by Wylie, Texas-based Convenient Sports International. The company is "very pleased" with the recognition, said Mike Willis, president of national sales.

The seat is not designed to lock onto a trailer hitch. Company officials added the warning about two years ago after learning that at least one consumer had modified their product and was driving around with it on the back of his vehicle.

"It was a concern because, 'What if, what if?'" Willis said.

Daniel Berganini of Fridley, Minn., won the second-place prize of $250 for a line in a wart-removal product's instruction guide that is unlikely to reach its targeted audience: "Do not use if you cannot see clearly to read the information in the information booklet."

Third place was a tie between a cereal bowl warning, "Always use this product with adult supervision," and a bag of livestock castration rings cautioning, "For animal use only." Michael Leonard of Yarmouth, Maine, and Freddy Krieger of Baroda, Mich., each won $100.

"Do not eat the LCD panel," warns a label on a 1-by-4-inch LCD screen, a finalist submitted by David Almcrantz of Goleta, Calif.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman allegedly hits pregnant woman with scooter

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Police said a woman accused of attacking a pregnant college student with a child's scooter is in jail. Authorities say 32-year-old Renee Soto was arrested on suspicion of assault for allegedly hitting University of Northern Colorado student Amanda Watkins in the back of the head and lower back with a child's metal scooter on Sunday. Watkins said she was attacked because she prevented Soto's 3-year-old son from hurting a cat. Watkins, 26, said she was also scratched and punched and that three of her teeth were chipped during the attack. Police spokesman Sgt. Joe Tymkowych said Soto was booked into jail Monday night.

Deputy quits after wife, mom-in-law take squad car

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—A Polk County deputy has turned in his badge after his wife and mother-in-law took his patrol car out for a joyride. Officials said the 44-year-old deputy resigned Monday after serving 21 years with the sheriff's office. The arrest report said his wife and mother-in-law face charges of vehicle theft, theft of a firearm and impersonating a law-enforcement officer. His wife also faces charges of possession of a firearm of a convicted felon. A third person riding in the back seat also was arrested. Witnesses reporting seeing the patrol car driving erratically in Lakeland on Sunday morning. The deputy apparently didn't know the car was taken.

Radio Shack employee punches customer

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (AP)—A Radio Shack employee faces disorderly conduct and battery charges for punching a customer. Police said the customer was trying to return an item Sunday, but the employee wouldn't let him. The customer then asked to talk to a manager. That's when the 52-year-old male employee began punching the man. A bystander called 911. The employee is due in court May 19.

Pa. woman, 85, loses scooter in 'repairman' scam

JEANNETTE, Pa. (AP)—State police are looking for a bogus repairman who they say scammed an 85-year-old western Pennsylvania woman out of her electric scooter. State police said the man came to the woman's home last month and told her he was there to take her scooter into his shop for repairs and an oil change. Police said the man told the victim she'd get her scooter back in about a week. But police said the woman hasn't seen her scooter since and finally contacted police. Police said the man signed a document using the name "Frank McGinnis" or something similar. He was driving a tan colored van and wearing a blue jacket.

Alligator surprises Fla. woman planning test drive

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP)—Check your engine for alligators. Denise Anderson, 33, planned to test drive a used SUV on Tuesday morning but got a big surprise, an alligator that measured more than 8 feet long. "I saw its eyes. Mouth. Its jaws. Its teeth, Anderson told the St. Petersburg Times. Managers of the Sun Toyota dealership called police for help. A licensed trapper also was called. Mark Lewis with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said trapped gators that measure 4 feet or longer are "generally disposed." Lewis said its busy season for alligator sightings.

Sisters, age 65 and 70, accused of dealing heroin

STROUDSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A northeastern Pennsylvania prosecutor said he's shocked that two sisters accused of selling heroin are 65 and 70 years old. Monroe County District Attorney David Christine told reporters Wednesday that to look at the suspects, it's hard to believe the charges they face. Police said the women are believed to have been dealing heroin out of their Stroudsburg-area homes for almost six months and pulling in about $10,000 a week in sales. A 28-year-old Allentown man was accused of being their supplier.

Fla. man, 70, protests brown sand on white beach

SIESTA KEY, Fla. (AP)—The beaches of Siesta Key in Sarasota are known for its white sand, and residents want to keep it that way. Jim Overbeck was arrested Tuesday on a misdemeanor trespassing charge while protesting a battle to spread a brownish sand on the beach. The 70-year-old threw himself on the sand. Sarasota County wanted to spread loads of sand on the public access part of the beach to fill in a hole left after workers removed an old buried seawall. The white sands of Miramar Beach and nearby Crescent Beach are two major reasons why Siesta Key is consistently honored as one of the beaches with the best sand. The sand has a very high quartz content, which makes it so white and keeps it cool.

Science & Technology

Is quitting Twitter more popular than re-tweeting?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Twitter quitters outnumber the flock of habitual tweeters on the rapidly growing online communications service, a new study suggests.

Most people aren't joining the Web site's jumble of conversations for very long. More than 60 percent of Twitter's U.S. users don't return a month later, based on an analysis of traffic trends unveiled this week by the research firm Nielsen Online.

The lackluster retention rate of 40 percent suggests many people don't see the point in spending time on Twitter, which allows anyone to write about what they're doing or what's on their mind in messages, or "tweets," limited to 140 characters. While some of the chirping is entertaining, thought-provoking or just downright helpful, much of the chatter can be quite banal as people update when they are eating, drinking, puking and even defecating.

It's possible Nielsen Online is exaggerating Twitter's retention problems because its tracking tools don't account for applications on mobile phones and other devices that make it possible to tweet and read messages without going through the Web site. That limitation means Nielsen Online could be wrongly characterizing some active users as Twitter quitters.

Twitter co-founder Biz Stone didn't immediately respond to a Wednesday request for comment about Nielsen Online's findings.

Survey: 22 pct of Internet users ditch newspaper

NEW YORK (AP)—Sure, plenty of readers are turning more to the Web for newspaper and magazine stories, but are they giving up on print altogether?

In many cases, yes, according to a recent study by the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication. It found that 22 percent of Internet users have canceled a print subscription because they could get the same product online.

Not that nostalgia for the printed page has died altogether. The survey found that 61 percent of Internet users who read newspapers offline would miss the print edition if it disappeared. That's up from 56 percent a year earlier.

The findings add some dimension to industry figures released this week showing newspapers losing circulation faster than ever. Average newspaper sales tumbled 7.1 percent in the six months from October to March from the same period a year earlier, according to an Audit Bureau of Circulations analysis of newspapers that had reported in both periods.

Some of that decline, as newspapers are quick to point out, comes from cutting back on what they consider less-profitable circulation—bulk copies delivered to hotels, for instance.

But the Annenberg study suggests a more rapid and permanent shift, according to its authors.

Study suggests doctors could add to Wikipedia

NEW YORK (AP)—Researchers are suggesting that doctors could be spending more time writing and editing Wikipedia pages on medical topics, despite questions that have been raised about the collaborative online encyclopedia's credibility.

Medical professionals should recognize that Wikipedia has become a major online source of health information for consumers, researchers wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association.

The study was prepared by Michael R. Laurent, a medical student at Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and Tim J. Vickers, a post-doctoral researcher at Washington University in St. Louis. Both are Wikipedia contributors.

The report measured how often Wikipedia entries showed up among the top results from main Web search engines such as Google Inc.'s when the researchers entered health-related terms. It also looked at whether people use Wikipedia more to find health information after hearing news of a disease outbreak or other health worries.

The authors found that, in 71 percent to 85 percent of search words tested at various search engines, Wikipedia came up within the first 10 results.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: Verizon seems to be telling me that I have to use the wireless router they provide. I'd rather keep my Apple AirPort router. Can I?

A: Yes. Although Verizon's Web site says its router is "needed for your Fios connection," you actually require only one connection on its back.

That would be its plug for the round, coaxial network cable that carries the Fios connection into your house. Once that's hooked up, you can use the rest of the router as Verizon suggests, or you can connect any other router to the Ethernet port also provided on the back of the Verizon unit.

Why would you want to plug an extra router into another, perfectly functional router and then shut off the first router's wireless transmitter? This reader notes one reason: She already paid for her own Wi-Fi access point and doesn't care to retire it. But there are other reasons to do such a thing.

One could be ease of use. The Verizon router, like many such devices, relies on a jargon-laden Web interface that buries important options—on the last one I inspected, a stronger form of wireless encryption called WPA (Wi-Fi Protected Access) was hidden behind an "Advanced Security Settings" link.

Another could be performance. Many third-party routers offer a version of Wi-Fi, "802.11n," that covers a wider area and allows faster data transfers.

Verizon spokesman Harry Mitchell said the company doesn't "officially" support the use of other routers. In practice, that may mean that if you call Verizon about a slow connection, you might have to plug a computer into the Fios router's Ethernet port to ensure that your own router isn't at fault.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

MARCELLA LIETO NORITA CAMACHO

Lovingly known as "**MARCY**"

would like to invite you to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of her passage into eternal life.

Nightly Rosary will be said starting April 24, 2009 (Friday) at 7:00 pm at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Daily Mass will also be offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am.

On the final day, **May 02, 2009 (Saturday)**, Rosary will be at 12:00 pm followed by Eucharistic Mass Celebration at 6:00 pm at Santa Remedios Church. Dinner will be served immediately after mass at the Tanapag Social Hall.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

Fifth Death Anniversary

Margarita Deleon Guerrero Pangelinan Flores Kintol

(Lovingly known as "Auntie Mag")

"Time has come and gone; memories live on."

In remembrance of her new life with our Creator, we the children, together with our families, brothers and sisters and our families, invite our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the Fifth Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Masses of intentions also for John Derek Flores will be celebrated daily at 6:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning Saturday, April 25, 2009 through Sunday, May 3, 2009.

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, Memorial Mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m. and appreciation breakfast will be served immediately at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence at the masses are greatly appreciated.

Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Life & Style

'Harry Potter' among those missing from e-library

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest J.R.R. Tolkien project lasted six years, more than half as long as the author needed to complete his "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Getting permission to release a book in electronic form can be as hard—or harder—than writing it.

"The Tolkien estate wanted to be absolutely confident that e-books were not something ephemeral," says David Brawn, publishing operations director at HarperCollins UK, which announced last week that the late British author's work—among the world's most popular—would be available for downloads.

"We were finally able to convince the Tolkien estate that the e-book is a legitimate, widespread format."

Tolkien's addition to the e-club fills a major gap, and, with e-books the fastest (and virtually only) growing sector of publishing, other authors and their estates have softened. Former holdouts Tom Clancy and Danielle Steel have allowed their books to be digitized and John Grisham will reportedly do the same. Grove/Atlantic Inc., which has published William Burroughs, Samuel Beckett and Malcolm X, expects many of its older works to become available.

AP

In this 1967 file photo, J.R.R. Tolkien, author of "The Lord of the Rings" is shown.

"We're getting less resistance every day," says Grove associate publisher Eric Price.

But you could still build a brilliant collection with the books that remain off-line. They include, most notably, the "Harry Potter" series, and countless other favorites: "Catcher in the Rye" and "Catch-22"; "Lolita" and "To Kill a Mockingbird"; "Atlas Shrugged" and "Things Fall Apart"; "The Outsiders" and "Fahrenheit 451."

No e-books are available from such living authors as Thomas Pynchon, Guenter Grass and Cynthia Ozick, or from the late Studs Terkel, Roberto Bolano and Saul Bellow. Only a handful, or less, have come out from Paul Bowles, Hunter S. Thompson and James Baldwin.

The reasons are legal, financial, technical and philosophical.

■ The author or author's estate simply refuses, like J.K. Rowling, who has expressed a preference for books on paper and a wariness of technology. And don't expect to see "A Streetcar Named Desire" or any other Tennessee Williams play on your e-reader.

"Right now, his estate is totally opposed to any kind of electronic licensing," said literary agent Georges Borchardt, who represents Williams' estate. "They just don't trust the technology."

■ The book doesn't fit the e-book format. Because e-technology has had limited capacity to handle illustrations, paper—recycled paper—was needed to read Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," the companion to the Academy-Award winning environmental documentary. Rodale Books hopes to release Gore's follow up, "Our Choice," as an electronic text when the traditional book comes out this fall.

■ The author, or the author's representative, is holding out for more money. Agents complain that e-book royalty rates, commonly 25 percent of net receipts, are far too low and should be doubled, saying that digital texts cost virtually nothing to produce and distribute.

Porn star Sasha Grey stars in new Soderbergh film

NEW YORK (AP)—Of all the veteran actors with films at the Tribeca Film Festival, the length of Sasha Grey's filmography could rival them all.

Though just 21, Grey has performed in more than 150 pornographic films. But at Tribeca, she stars in Steven Soderbergh's "The Girlfriend Experience"—which premiered with much anticipation at the festival Tuesday evening.

In it, Grey plays a $2,000-an-hour escort whose Manhattan customers are mostly Wall Street executives stressed by their falling fortunes.

Soderbergh shifts between larger budget films ("Ocean's Eleven," "Erin Brockovich") and inexpensive independent works (his breakthrough "Sex, Lies, and Videotape," "Full Frontal").

"The Girlfriend Experience" is his second film in a six-movie deal with Mark Cuban's cable station HDNet. On May 22, it will be released in limited theaters and air on HDNet.

Like his first such "day-and-date" film, 2005's "Bubble," Soderbergh cast mostly nonprofessional actors in similar situations as their characters in "The Girlfriend Experience." He encouraged improvisation and shot quickly last October.

Soderbergh became interested in Grey after reading about her in Los Angeles Magazine; he says the article showed how different she was from her industry colleagues.

Such a casting decision is automatic publicity for a small film like "The Girlfriend Experience"—a benefit Soderbergh doesn't dispute.

"I'm counting on it," he says.

AP

In this film publicity image released by the Tribeca Film Festival, Sasha Grey is shown in a scene from Steven Soderbergh's film, "The Girlfriend Experience."

"This girl has a huge following. Most of whatever discussion that's going on is totally based on her. ... She's kind of a new breed. There hasn't been anyone exactly like her in that business yet. She's not the normal adult film star."

Grey, who grew up in Northern California, became a porn star at 18. She also has modeled for American Apparel clothing and gotten into music, including singing for the reggae musician Lee "Scatch" Perry.

Grey believes part of what sets her apart is her focus and business-minded outlook.

"I came into this industry wanting to get into this industry," says Grey. "I planned it for seven months before I moved to L.A. I knew what I wanted to do."

In her porn films, Grey is known for pushing the boundaries of normal sexual acts. She maintains she's always in control—a trait Soderbergh believes suits her character in "The Girlfriend Experience." There are no sex scenes in the film, but Soderbergh believes she has an unmistakable ease in sexual situations.

"The movie to me is about control and the ways in which we delude ourselves into thinking that certain things are not important to address," says Soderbergh. "It's about how each of these characters have chosen not to see something about themselves in order to get by."

Banks at NYC stalking trial: Fear changed my life

NEW YORK (AP)—Supermodel-turned-TV host Tyra Banks, facing the man accused of stalking her, testified Wednesday that she feared for her safety when she learned he had entered the New York City building where she tapes her show.

Banks, 35, said her staff would not let her leave the building on March 18, 2008, because defendant Brady Green, a stranger to her, had shown up.

"I was about to leave and a bunch of people from my staff were saying, like, 'No, you can't leave.' They said he was in the building," Banks testified.

Banks said that her staff had previously shown her Green's photograph, told her he had threatened one of her employees and was "somebody I should watch out for."

Green

When police arrived, the former Sports Illustrated cover girl said, "I told them I was scared. I didn't know what to do. How do I live my life when I leave this building? I had never experienced anything like this before."

Police arrested Green, of Dublin, Ga., in a McDonald's near Banks' studio in Manhattan's Chelsea section.

Police said he told them that he had come from Los Angeles on a bus to see Banks and that "we had a thing together."

Green, 39, is on trial in Manhattan Criminal Court on misdemeanor charges of stalking, harassment and criminal trespass.

He is accused of repeatedly calling Banks' studio, in addition to showing up there, and sending her flowers and letters.

Green faces as many as 90 days in jail if convicted by Judge James Burke, who is hearing the case without a jury. Calm and smiling frequently as she testified, Banks said security "has changed significantly" around her and her workplaces because of Green. She said that her company has hired more security staff and that her studio audiences are vetted more thoroughly.

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

1. *Liberty and Tyranny*, by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions: $25). The talk-radio personality's call to revitalize the conservative vision in America.
2. *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: $23.99). The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.
3. *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99). An exploration of the background of high achievers.
4. *House of Cards*, by William D. Cohan (Doubleday: $27.95). A narrative chronicling the fall of Bear Stearns and the Wall Street meltdown.
5. *Always Looking Up*, by Michael J. Fox (Hyperion: $25.99). The actor's emotional and spiritual outlook in his struggle with Parkinson's disease.
6. *The Lost City of Z*, by David Grann (Doubleday: $27.50). Col. Percy Fawcett's quest to find an ancient Amazonian society.
7. *In Praise of Stay-at-Home Moms*, by Laura Schlessinger (Harper: $25.99). The family therapist provides advice and support to mothers choosing to stay at home with their children.
8. *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95). A professor's terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
9. *Cloris*, by Cloris Leachman (Kensington: $24). The award-winning actress discusses her life and career in the spotlight.
10. *The 4-Hour Workweek*, by Timothy Ferriss (Crown: $19.95). A blueprint for living life on your own terms.

Fiction

1. *Breaking Dawn*, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.
2. *Eclipse*, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.
3. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.
4. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw*, by Jeff Kinney (Amulet: $12.95) Greg's dad enlists him in sports to toughen him up.
5. *Long Lost*, by Harlan Coben (Dutton: $27.95) Private eye Myron Bolitar takes the case of a woman accused of murdering her ex.
6. *The Women*, by T.C. Boyle (Viking: $27.95) Frank Lloyd Wright's life as told by four women who loved him.
7. *Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave (Simon & Schuster: $24) The lives of two married British journalists and a Nigerian teenager collide.
8. *The Host*, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $25.99) Aliens take over the minds of humans.
9. *The Long Fall*, by Walter Mosley (Riverhead: $25.95) A former bad guy turned P.I. tries to redeem himself.
10. *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson (Knopf: $24.95) A journalist explores the cold-case disappearance of a Swedish teen heiress.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Another finalist thrown from 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There was no saving Matt Giraud this time on "American Idol."

The 23-year-old dueling piano player from Kalamazoo, Mich., was rescued by the show's judges two weeks ago. But on Wednesday it was revealed that he received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox singing competition—just beneath this season's most formidable front-runner.

"I'll definitely remember being the cat with nine lives up here," Giraud said after his dismissal.

At the start of the show, host Ryan Seacrest split the finalists: Giraud and Kris Allen on one side, Danny Gokey and Allison Iraheta on the other. Seacrest then allowed seemingly unstoppable Adam Lambert to choose which group he belonged in. Lambert picked Gokey and Iraheta, but Seacrest dropped a bomb: Lambert was in the bottom three with Giraud and Allen.

"My mouth went open again," said judge Kara DioGuardi. "That's what happens with Adam."

The drama was extended after Seacrest sent Allen to safety, leaving Lambert and Giraud as the bottom two vote-getters. While the judges were split on Tuesday's "Rat Pack"-themed show over Giraud's "My Funny Valentine" rendition, they all agreed that 27-year-old theater actor Lambert's "Feeling Good" performance left them feeling, well, really good.

The Lambert alarm was all for naught, though. Giraud was sent packing.

Gokey and Iraheta, who both recently celebrated birthdays, were safe from elimination, but the 29-year-old church music director from Milwaukee and the 17-year-old high school student from Los Angeles weren't totally out of harm's way. Video was shown of them tangling in a cake-making brawl that left their kitchen a mess.

Gokey was served with the cleaning bill.

"You mean `American Idol' doesn't pay for this?" Gokey asked.

"Maybe we'll take care of it if you win," Seacrest responded.

The four remaining finalists—Allen, Gokey, Iraheta and Lambert—will perform rock 'n' roll songs next week, two weeks before the two-part finale.

In this image released by Fox, contestant Matt Giraud is embraced by host Ryan Seacrest, right, after he was saved from elimination on "American Idol," Wednesday, April 15, 2009 in Los Angeles.

AP

Attorney: Rihanna will get jewelry back

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rihanna will get back $1.4 million in borrowed jewelry she was wearing the night she was allegedly beaten by Chris Brown.

Prosecutors agreed to have the jewelry photographed for evidence if it is needed at a trial. The 21-year-old singer's attorney had requested a judge's order for the items' return, but an agreement was reached Wednesday morning.

Donald Etra said after the hearing that it will allow Rihanna to return the items to companies that lent them to her. She wore the jewelry, described as a pair of earrings and three rings, to a pre-Grammy party.

"Rihanna just wants the owners to get their goods back," Etra said.

Brown was arrested Feb. 8 and charged nearly a month later with assault likely to produce great bodily injury and making criminal threats.

AP

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Rihanna arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The 19-year-old "Run It!" singer wasn't in court Wednesday, but could face a preliminary hearing in June when a judge will decide whether there is enough evidence for the case to go to trial.

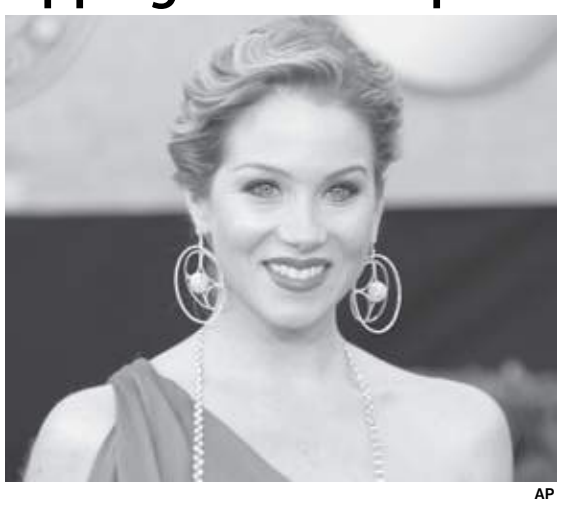
His attorney, Mark Geragos, told Superior Court Judge Patricia M. Schnegg that he intends to file a motion soon seeking access to Los Angeles Police Department records that may help Brown's case.

The motion seeks access to personnel records, and Geragos told Schnegg he was looking for evidence of possible police misconduct.

The LAPD opened an investigation into the leak of a photo that appeared to show a beaten and bruised Rihanna, but hasn't offered any updates.

Etra reiterated Wednesday that Rihanna will testify if she is called. He has said the singer would like the case to be resolved without a trial.

Applegate on People's 'Most Beautiful' cover



AP

In this Jan. 25, 2009 file photo, actress Christina Applegate arrives at the 15th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—A smiling Christina Applegate graces the cover of People magazine's "Most Beautiful" issue.

The 37-year-old actress, who recently battled breast cancer, certainly has much to celebrate: She says she's finally found her "perfect type" in her new beau, Dutch musician Martyn Lenoble (Mar-TAN Luh-NOBLE).

Applegate had a double mastectomy last July and reconstructive surgery months later. The star of ABC's "Samantha Who?" calls Lenoble an "angel" who loves her "from head to toe."

According to Applegate, Lenoble has been her "rock" and gave her reason to live—and smile.

The annual "Most Beautiful" issue features 100 famous faces, including Michelle Obama, Zac Efron and Cindy Crawford posing without makeup. It hits stands Friday.

'Celebrity Apprentice' rehired by NBC next season

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump will be firing more stars next year when "Celebrity Apprentice" returns for another round.

NBC announced Wednesday that it's rehiring Trump for a ninth season of the reality series, scheduled to air in spring 2010.

Production is expected to begin this fall, when 16 yet-to-be-named celebrities meet and compete in business-oriented challenges. All but one will eventually hear Trump tell them, "You're fired!"

Other details from NBC's 2009-10 season (and the fall prime-time schedule) will be formally unveiled by the network on Monday.

Although none of the celebrities for the forthcoming "Apprentice" were identified, deals already are in place with "a couple" of them, Trump said in an interview. "We turn down five for every one we take."

The news of more "Celebrity Apprentice" came as the show's current season heads into its home stretch. Country music's Clint Black, poker champ Annie Duke, former "Monster Garage" host Jesse James, Playboy pinup Brande Roderick and comedian Joan Rivers remain in contention.

The finale will air Sunday, May 10, at 8 p.m. EDT.

The current season has demonstrated the series' durability, drawing an average of 8.6 million viewers each week.

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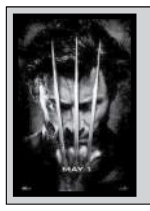
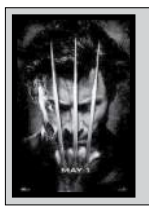


X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.



X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Ghost of Girlfriends Past

Friday	4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Celebrity photographer Connor Mead loves freedom, fun and women-in that order. A committed bachelor with a no-strings policy, he thinks nothing of breaking up with multiple women on a conference call while prepping his next date. Connor's brother Paul is more the romantic type. In fact, he's about to be married.

★ ★ ★

Fighting

Friday	4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

State of Play

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck
Drama, Political • Rated PG 13

17 Again

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Fast & Furious

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Mother of groom makes big trouble for small wedding

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice—fast! My daughter, "Julie," is being married in July to a wonderful young man I'll call "Denny," who is also an only child. Julie and Denny planned a small, intimate wedding with close friends and family to be held in our prize-winning flower garden. The guest list was limited to 50, so my sister is catering the happy day.

Now, suddenly, Denny's mother bought another 200 invitations and mailed them out! At last count, we have 180 guests! I thought the guest list was up to the bride and groom. Not only is there not enough room in our garden, but no parking! We live in a small, gated community, and our covenants do not allow for that many cars. Must we find another venue for the wedding or can we tell mom-in-law-to-be she was out of line?

FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW

DEAR FUTURE M.I.L.: What Denny's mother did was extremely presumptuous. However, this is not your problem, so please don't make it so.

Inform Denny's mother that entertaining more than 50 wedding guests on your property is forbidden by the codes, covenants and restrictions in your community and that she must now call every one of the guests she invited and rescind the invitation. Then alert the security personnel that only those on the original guest list are to be admitted.

Please understand that you and your daughter have my deepest sympathy, because this is only the opening salvo in the power struggle that's to come with this nervy woman—so be prepared.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 26 years old and, aside from my wedding day, I have never worn makeup. Several people have told me that "every woman needs makeup." I have pretty good skin, so I just brush them off and continue going without.

Lately, however, I have noticed that my cheeks and forehead are a bit more red than the rest of my face, and I would like to try some foundation or something to help even out my complexion. I'm not looking to go from zero to 60; I just want to start with the basics. I'm just not sure where to start.

I am wary of beauty consultants who will try to sell me overpriced stuff that I don't need. Also, I am afraid my husband, who has been fine with my "au naturel" appearance, will wonder why I'm all of a sudden interested in makeup. We have a great marriage, but he has mentioned in the past how glad he is that I don't wear makeup because it is messy and time-consuming. Can you give me some advice?

MAKEUP-CHALLENGED IN TEXAS

DEAR MAKEUP-CHALLENGED: I'll gladly share some important beauty advice with you. It's something I learned in my 20s.

When it comes to your skin, your best friend is a good dermatologist. He or she can determine whether this change in your complexion is "cosmetic" or a symptom of an underlying medical problem. It could be something as simple as an allergy to the soap you are using, but you need to find out what is causing the irritation rather than trying to cover it up.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You once published a beautiful short poem having to do with the value of reading to children. Encore, encore!

MOMMY IN TACOMA

DEAR MOMMY: With pleasure. It is from a poem titled "The Reading Mother" and was written by Strickland Gillilan.

"You may have tangible wealth untold;
"Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
"Richer than I you can never be—
"I had a mother who read to me."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Usher unveils childhood snapshot on billboard

AP

In this photo provided by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Grammy award-winning singer Usher reacts as a billboard with his childhood image is unveiled with his mother, Jonnetta Patton, left, looking on, Wednesday, April 29, 2009 in Atlanta.

ATLANTA (AP)—Grammy-winning artist Usher credits the Boys & Girls Club of America for making a difference in his life, so the least he could do was lend the group a slightly embarrassing photo of himself as a 7-year-old.

"I can only imagine how many accidents are going to happen in result of this being here," the 30-year-old Usher joked Wednesday as he glanced at a new billboard on one of Atlanta's busiest streets.

With about 20 kids surrounding him, Usher unveiled the billboard with his likeness as part of a national youth advocacy campaign to raise awareness for the club.

The singer's picture also will be used at airports and in public service announcements. He joins others with childhood billboards for the club—Denzel Washington, Shaquille O'Neal, Martin Sheen, Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Gen. Wesley Clark.

"This is an opportunity for people to learn more about us," said Roxanne Spillett, Boys & Girls Club of America's president. "I hope this effort can spark more alumni to contribute and become a role models." Usher, who was a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs for four years in his home state of Tennessee, hopes his billboard can have a positive affect on another child's life.

"It made a difference for me," he said. "Being great doesn't start in the later moments of life. We could be speaking to tomorrow's Barack Obama or Michael Jordan or Magic Johnson or Usher. These clubs are valuable to the community. Hopefully my billboard can help inspire someone else."

Jackman: Size matters for 'Wolverine' and Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hugh Jackman relied on his Wolverine alter ego to pack on muscle for the "X-Men" role, and he turned to the Oscars to slim back down.

The 40-year-old actor trained for a year to achieve his character's look.

"My goal was to make him look like an animal," a much leaner Jackman said recently. "I wanted people to be unnerved when they saw him."

Among the first to be unnerved? "Australia" director Baz Luhrmann.

Jackman was co-starring with Nicole Kidman in the epic love story when he started bulking up for "X-Men Origins: Wolverine."

"Baz said, 'Mate, whatever you're eating, can you slow down a bit because I'm going to struggle to edit this together,'" Jackman recalled, adding that there are a few scenes in "Australia" where he's "beefier" than he ought to be.

AP

Hugh Jackman arrives to the "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" screening on Tuesday April 28, 2009, in Los Angeles.

The director had issues with Jackman's size again when the two collaborated on the opening song-and-dance number for the Academy Awards.

"Baz was like, 'You've got to lose weight... You're too bulky,'" Jackman said.

Luckily, Jackman discovered the ideal weight-loss plan: "Singing and dancing is the greatest diet in the history of the planet," he said. "Well, that and performing in front of a billion people."

Despite the pressures of the Oscar performance, the gregarious actor said he'd take on the hosting task again without hesitation.

"I'd do it again if I was asked," Jackman said. "I loved every second of it."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Carrie Fisher brings one-woman show to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Carrie Fisher will bring her tales of growing up in Hollywood to Broadway next season. The daughter of Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds will open her one-woman show, "Wishful Drinking," Oct. 4 at Studio 54. The Roundabout Theatre Company production begins preview performances Sept. 22. Fisher has already performed the show at regional theaters around the country.

Donald Trump to appear on 'The View' after feud

NEW YORK (AP)—Celebrity feuds can't last forever when there is publicity to be had. Just ask Donald Trump and Barbara Walters. Trump is booked to appear next Tuesday on Walters' daytime show "The View." He will promote a book and the season finale of "The Apprentice." Trump gets publicity, while Walters lands an attention-getting guest during a ratings sweeps month. He hasn't been on the show since he got in the middle of Rosie O'Donnell's ugly exit from "The View" two years ago. He told reporters that Walters had said that she was happy O'Donnell had been fired, which Walters denied publicly. The two broke the ice when Trump appeared on Walters' satellite radio show a few weeks ago.

O.J. Simpson witness and Dr. Phil settle case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's a settlement in the defamation lawsuit filed against Dr. Phil by a witness in O.J. Simpson's robbery case. Attorneys for Phil McGraw and memorabilia dealer Thomas Riccio filed a statement Monday, saying an agreement had been reached. Riccio sued McGraw and Stage 29 Media Productions in October. He claimed an interview with McGraw was edited to remove his denials to certain accusations, including that he set Simpson up and told Simpson to bring guns to a Las Vegas robbery. A judge gutted the case last month, removing defamation, false light and infliction of emotional distress claims. The interview aired days after Simpson was convicted of robbing and kidnapping two sports memorabilia dealers at gunpoint.

Maxwell sets July date for new CD

NEW YORK (AP)—Maxwell may appear smooth and suave onstage, but he says it's all just an act.

The soul singer says he's actually insecure—so a concert tour last fall helped boost his confidence about releasing a new album.

"Just the encouragement, you can't imagine," Maxwell said at a reception Tuesday. "I'm an insecure person at best. ... I feel like going on the road, I got so much inspiration."

Maxwell used some of that inspiration to create his latest album, "BLACKsummers'night," due to be released July 7 and marks Maxwell's first album in almost 8 years.

"To have the gift of having people just need me to be onstage... that was enough for me to make the best album I could make," he added.

Maxwell, best known for hits like "Sumthin' Sumthin'" and "Fortunate," spoke at a reception to celebrate his album's impending release. The album's first single, "Pretty Wings," has been released to radio stations already.

The album is due to be part of a trilogy. The second and third parts are supposed to be released in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

When asked what kind of reception he expected for the album, he said: "I try not to live by expectations.

"If you just do it with love, the rest will be taken care of."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MOM, I CAN'T SLEEP.
I'M SURE YOU CAN IF YOU JUST LIE QUIETLY.
BUT HOBBES ISN'T HERE.
TIGERS ARE VERY COMFORTING. I ALWAYS FALL RIGHT ASLEEP WHEN I LISTEN TO HOBBES BREATHING.
WELL, YOU CAN LISTEN TO YOUR DAD SNORING.
THAT'S DAD? I THOUGHT THOSE WERE TRUCKS DOWN-SHIFTING ON THE HIGHWAY.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
5/1

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M BUSY
OH, ME TOO!
BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!
BUSY SAYING THE WORD "BUSY"
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 5-1

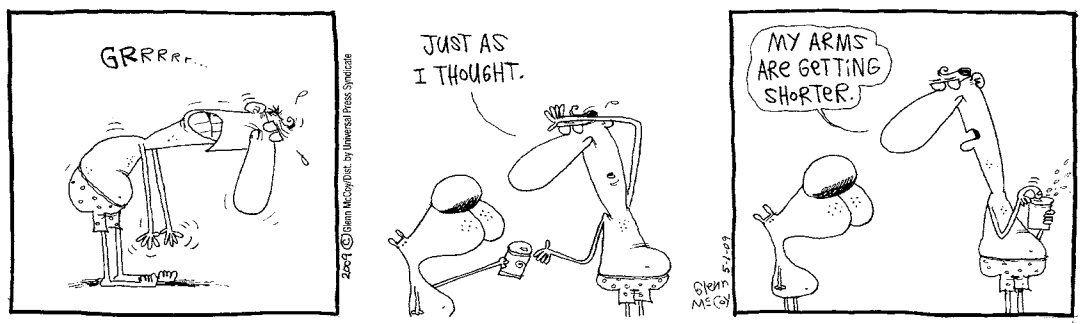
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I COULDA BEEN A RINGMASTER. I LOOK GREAT IN A TOP HAT.
DAD, CAN I GET ONE OF THOSE NEON GLOW STICK THINGS?
SORRY, BUD. THOSE ARE A COMPLETE WASTE OF MONEY.
HOW WAS IT? WHAT'S THAT BOX? "AUTHENTIC REPLICA RINGMASTER COSTUME"?
UMM...
SEE MY COOL GLOW STICK, MOM?
AND I GOT A SINGING PONY TO KEEP ME QUIET.
CIRCUS
YEA!!
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate
www.gocomics.com
5-1

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


GRRRRr...
2009 ©Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
MY ARMS ARE GETTING SHORTER.
Glenn McCoy 5-1-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

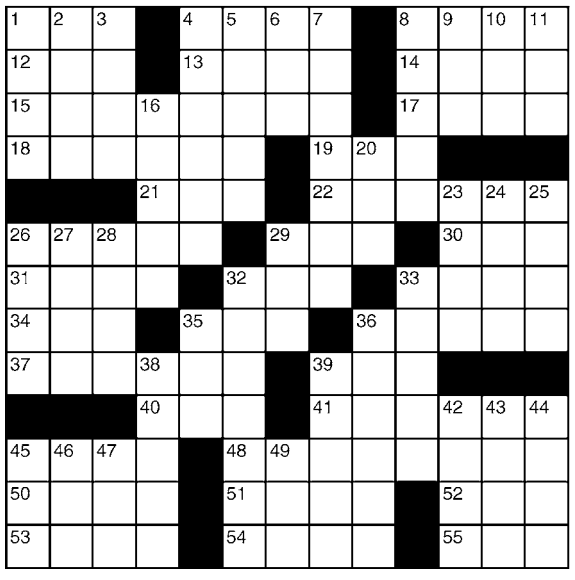
ACROSS
1 "Humbug!"
4 Trade
8 Leno's feature
12 Expert
13 Gyro holder
14 Fight the clock
15 Michael Jackson album
17 Previously owned
18 Shadow location
19 Honest politician?
21 Chemical suffix
22 Comic "married" to Fang
26 Sired
29 Visibility hindrance
30 Galena, e.g.
31 Ear-related
32 Indulge in pugilism
33 Check bar codes
34 "— Town"
35 Tussaud's medium
36 Stickup job
37 Extremely impressive
39 Bovine utterance
40 Sapporo sash
41 Entertained
45 Piece of work
48 German poet/dramatist
50 Leak slowly
51 Subsequently
52 Swiss canton
53 Will beneficiary
54 Ethereal
55 19-Across' party

DOWN
1 Decrease
2 Needing liniment
3 Roll call reply
4 Immobilizer
5 Dorian Gray's creator
6 Corroded
7 Seeming contradiction
8 Inhumane
9 Possesses
10 Capades site
11 Homer's neighbor Flanders
16 Of the upper hipbone
20 Huge
23 Places
24 History chapters
25 Musical based on "La Boheme"
26 Amazon.com buy
27 Needle case
28 Any of the Dionne quintuplets
29 Henhouse threat
32 Starbucks employee
33 South Korean capital
35 Symbol of intrigue
36 Basis for grits
38 "The Biggest —"
39 "Real Time" moderator
42 Punch
43 Architect Saarinen
44 Plumbing problem
45 La-la preceder
46 "The Raven" writer
47 Submachine gun
49 Greek X

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	N	E	W	■	U	R	A	L	■	M	E	T
B	E	T	E	■	K	I	L	O	■	A	C	E
C	A	N	D	L	E	M	A	S	■	S	H	E
S	T	A	G	E	S	■	■	E	P	S	O	M
■	■	■	I	D	■	S	P	R	E	E	■	■
H	O	M	E	■	A	M	A	■	G	N	A	W
I	R	A	■	■	S	A	L	■	■	E	N	A
M	E	S	H	■	I	S	M	■	S	T	Y	X
■	■	T	O	R	A	H	■	M	O	■	■	■
P	R	O	V	E	■	■	C	I	N	E	M	A
R	I	D	■	P	A	N	O	R	A	M	A	S
A	D	O	■	R	U	I	N	■	T	I	C	K
M	E	N	■	O	G	L	E	■	A	R	E	S

Yesterday's answer 5-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 40; Tim McGraw, 42; John Woo, 63; Judy Collins, 70

Happy Birthday: Be careful who you push away. You cannot let stubbornness be your downfall. This will be a strange year, full of important life lessons. You may have to settle for less in order to hang on to what's important. Don't overreact, overspend or overindulge. Your numbers are 6, 11, 16, 23, 30, 37, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let built-up anxiety cause you to miss out on a great time. Socialize with enthusiastic people who will motivate you to take your place in front by using cutting-edge technology and your savvy, pioneering mentality. Stop sulking and start winning again. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be cautious how you address issues being raised at home or by family. Someone will be very upset if you make the wrong choices or leave someone out. Now is not the time to have secrets from the people who know you best. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Entertainment, travel and getting together with friends should highlight your day. Love is in the stars and a move on your part will help to solidify your position in someone's heart. You will recognize what you want and where you should head. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A service you can provide for home or family will help you find a way to make some extra cash. You can increase your status by the company you keep. A romantic relationship may appear to be difficult but, if you are attentive, you can get what you want. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take care of any pressing matters fast and get on to fun and games. You are up for a challenge and should take part in anything that gets your blood flowing. Travel and interacting with people with unusual backgrounds will be entertaining. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Spend some cash on personal upgrades. Fix up your home or look into a self-improvement plan. Don't let anyone push you into something you don't want. A proposal may be tempting but is probably not legitimate. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't give a second thought to someone who is trying to push his or her will on you. Reject any force plays and spend your time on things and people you enjoy. Help a cause you believe in. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may be at a crossroad but, by avoiding making a decision, you are going to continue to spin your wheels and accomplish little. Make a move before someone else beats you to it. Now is not the time to fall behind or question your approach. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Welcome the personal changes you face, even if you aren't sure of the outcome. You can adjust quickly and twist things to your liking so don't worry about what anyone else tries to do. Travel or adventure plans should be made. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be fooled by someone's emotional outburst. You can fix matters by being sensitive and attentive. Property investments, legal matters and health issues can all be resolved. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will be torn between what you want to do and what you should be doing. Look at the big picture and focus on the future. There will be plenty of time to do the things you want, once you take care of business and prove your reliability. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Entertaining activities will lead to interesting meetings with people who can help you out in other ways. Don't ask for too much right away. Making people feel special will increase your popularity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You've got charm, pizzazz and the gift of gab. You are versatile and clever, generous, kind and quick to please.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	9	5					
	1		7			3		
	5		3			4		
	9		6		8		2	
		4			2		6	
		2			6		7	
					4	1	8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	6	2	8	1	7	9	3	4
7	8	9	5	4	3	1	6	2
3	1	4	9	2	6	7	8	5
2	7	8	1	3	9	5	4	6
6	9	3	2	5	4	8	7	1
4	5	1	6	7	8	2	9	3
8	2	7	4	6	5	3	1	9
9	4	5	3	8	1	6	2	7
1	3	6	7	9	2	4	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MEGAN FOX Solution: 7 letters

G	D	R	N	R	Y	E	N	D	Y	S	G	M	A	T
L	N	A	I	E	R	P	T	A	N	N	A	I	R	B
A	I	I	L	F	R	O	A	O	U	R	E	A	D	E
I	K	D	K	I	A	H	I	O	I	C	N	A	N	A
N	R	E	N	N	T	S	Y	L	A	S	R	O	A	U
N	O	R	A	N	S	T	Y	L	F	L	I	D	S	T
E	C	E	R	E	R	(N)	L	O	E	H	R	R	S	I
T	K	C	F	J	(E)	A	R	N	S	H	E	A	A	F
N	W	N	A	(W)	W	M	E	A	E	T	B	M	C	U
E	O	A	(S)	N	E	I	F	L	S	L	O	A	T	L
C	O	D	E	R	D	K	P	O	A	D	A	I	H	S
O	D	E	S	O	E	A	P	N	E	S	I	N	E	D
O	R	E	G	N	S	E	C	L	H	T	I	A	F	R
G	A	S	I	N	A	L	L	E	K	C	E	H	C	I
M	O	N	R	O	E	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	B

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American, Beautiful, Birds, Blanc, Brianna, Candace, Carla, Cassandra, Centennial, Check, Confessions, Dance, Darlene, Denise, Dogs, Drama, Faith, Fashion, Franklin, Green, Help, Hope, Jennifer, Kellan, Kind, King, Lear, Maes, Marilyn, Mikaela, Model, Monroe, News, Nine, Poster, Raider, Rockwood, Shia, Starr, Sydney, Transformers, Wallace, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Hotter

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII, Plaintiff, vs. RICARDO R. RASA and MATILDE H. BERMUDES, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0395 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 28, 2009, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

EA 415-3NEW-3 (formerly part of EA 415-3 NEW, which was part of original EA 415), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2026/89, the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 88 as Document No. 88-3910 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on May 27, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Ball LLP, Carlsmith Building, Capitol Hill, Isa Drive, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, April 28, 2009.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Bank Of Hawaii

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive
Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Lynda B. Palacios

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MARIA PALACIOS ROYSE	Civil Action No. 09-0127 AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX Date: May 19, 2009 Time: 1:30 p.m. Judge: Najara

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MARIA PALACIOS ROYSE OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Lynda B. Palacios**, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration and for the Appointment of Frances Hill as Administratrix of the **Estate of Maria Palacios Royse, Deceased**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney al Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.o. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing of the Petition for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Administratrix by **Lynda B. Palacios**, as Petitioner, has been set for May 19, 2009 at 1:30 pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

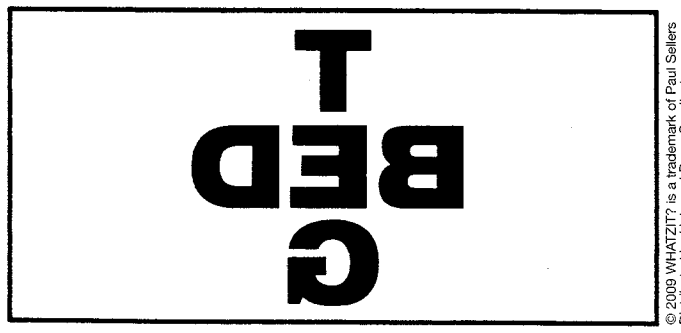
Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address hereinabove indicated.**

Dated this 22nd day of April 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

PURE BRED DOBERMAN PUPPIES

FOR SALE

3 MONTHS OLD WITH SHOTS

CALL 483-7231

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

House for Rent: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, full concrete. Located in Kagman III., walking distance to Kagman High School. For more information call 287-9080.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB OPENING
CIVIL ENGINEER
SUBMIT RESUME TO
3K CORPORATION
OR CALL 235-2222/3333

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

WHATZIT Solution: Get up on the wrong side of the bed

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES
BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce two board vacancies for representatives from the island of Saipan.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Humanities Council.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or may be delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office, located at the Kings Plaza Commercial Building in Dan Dan, Saipan. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at http://nmihumanities.org.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION

IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$87,000.00.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Friday, May 8, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-001

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 Time: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NMHC notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national original.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mark Manglona, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MERCED M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-012

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Installation of a Pad Mounted Transformer at Tinian High School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 29, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-012" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than 10:00 AM, May 27, 2009. Any bid submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be pre-bid meeting at 10:00 AM, May 20, 2009 in the PSS CIP Office in the 2nd Floor of the Retirement Fund Building. Technical Questions may be submitted at any time before this meeting and through May 22, 2009. Technical questions may be submitted to David Loan CIP Coordinator by fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to "dfaloan@yahoo.com". Procedural questions may be submitted to Robert Florian, Procurement and Supply Officer by fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-013

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of 5 New Classrooms at Tinian Elementary School**. The Scope of Work is available beginning April 29, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. Call ahead for the price of these plans and specifications to 233.7678.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 09-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than 11:00 AM, May 27, 2009. Any bid submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

There will be pre-bid meeting at 10:00 AM, May 19, 2009 in the PSS CIP Office in the 2nd Floor of the Retirement Fund Building. Technical Questions may be submitted at any time before this meeting and through May, 22, 2009. Technical questions may be submitted to David Loan, CIP Coordinator by fax to 664.3715 or by e-mail to "dfaloan@yahoo.com. Procedural questions may be submitted to Robert Florian, Procurement and Supply Officer by fax to 664.3791 or e-mail to florian@saipan.com.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Nuggets win their first playoff series since '94

DENVER (AP)—With a little help from the hometown kid, Carmelo Anthony is finally moving on. Behind Anthony's 34 points and the floor leadership of Chauncey Billups, the Denver native who came home this season and galvanized a city and a team, the Nuggets advanced to the second round of the NBA playoffs, 107-86 over the New Orleans Hornets on Wednesday night.

After five straight first-round flameouts, 'Melo led the Nuggets to their first playoff series win since 1994. They'll face the Dallas Mavericks in the second round.

"That monkey is awful heavy sometimes," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "I'm just really happy for 'Melo."

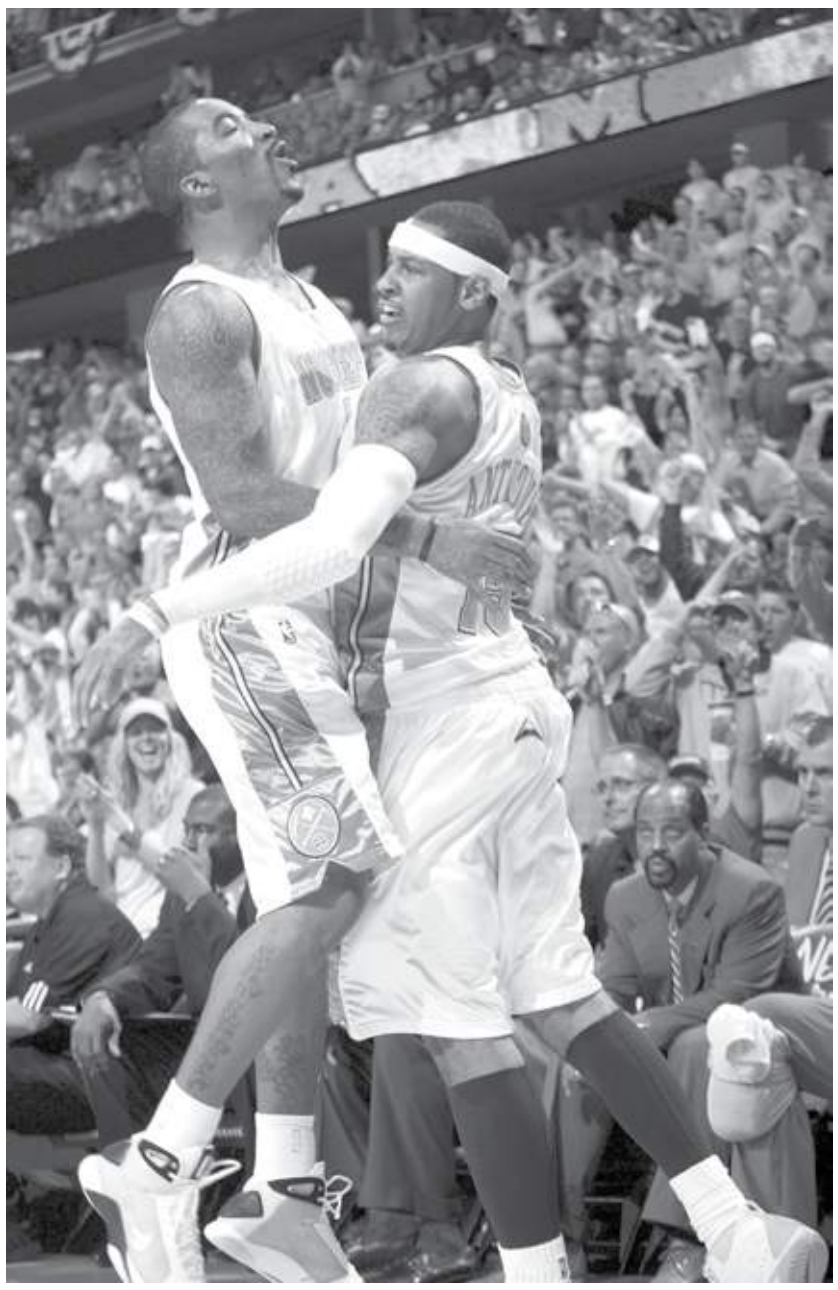
Dallas advanced to the Western Conference semifinals by defeating San Antonio in five games. Denver swept the season series with the Mavericks 4-0.

Anthony's 34 points were a career playoff best. Billups had 13 points and 11 assists, and J.R. Smith scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half to fuel Denver, which needed just five games to go from traditional first-round fodder to a playoff success story.

"I thought we could be a good team," Karl said. "But I never thought we could be this good."

Despite the final score, the capper wasn't nearly as easy as Denver's three other wins, including the 58-point blowout in Game 4 that matched the NBA record.

Playing without Tyson Chandler but with a pride and passion unapparent through most of the series, the Hornets made the Nuggets sweat. It was tied at 62 midway through the third period before Denver went on a 24-4 run to ice it.



AP

Denver Nuggets guard J.R. Smith, left, jumps into forward Carmelo Anthony after Anthony made a basket and drew a foul against the New Orleans Hornets in the fourth quarter of the Nuggets' 107-86 victory in Game 5 of an NBA first-round playoff basketball series in Denver on Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

David West led the Hornets with 24 points and Chris Paul had 12 points and 10 assists.

The Nuggets were coming off the most lopsided road win in NBA playoff history, a 121-63 shellacking in New Orleans on Monday night.

"Whether it's 58 points or a 1,000 points, a loss is a loss and you just try to get that bitter taste out of your mouth," Hornets forward James Posey said before the game.

Karl told his players not to look at Game 5 as a gimme after what happened in Game 4: "Don't get me wrong, New Orleans is capable of winning a game against us and playing well. If that happens than we can look in the mirror and say we're still playing with house money and let's move on," Karl said.

The Nuggets were equally determined to match their opponents' verve.

"I don't want to go back to New Orleans until next year," Anthony Carter said.

He won't have to.

The Nuggets finally started to create some separation late in the third quarter when consecutive 3s by Billups and Smith (twice) gave Denver its biggest lead yet, 73-62. The spurt began with Anthony's deflection that led to a sweet fastbreak lay-up by Dahntay Jones.

When the 14-0 run was finished, the Hornets were history.

Including the playoffs, the Hornets were 13-6 following a loss of 10 or more points, and they looked for much of this night like they were going to win. They built a nine-point first-quarter lead before settling for a 49-49 tie at halftime.

The Hornets used a 16-2 spurt to take a 25-16 lead and let some of the air out of the Pepsi Center. But with the Nuggets' bench players on the court, Denver scored eight electrifying points in a row to recharge the arena.

Still, the Hornets, with Hilton Armstrong starting at center for Chandler (ankle), went toe-to-toe with the Nuggets until Denver's third-quarter run started the celebration.

It was especially sweet for Billups, who was born and raised in Denver. He came from Detroit in the Allen Iverson trade a week into the season and transformed his beloved Nuggets from an afterthought into the West's second seed.

"Chauncey is the best thing that happened to Denver," Paul said. "The mind-set that he's given this team right now is something that will fuel them in the next round."

Hawks 106, Heat 91

At Atlanta, on a night of hard fouls, plenty of banging and staredowns galore, the Hawks moved closer to reaching the second round of the NBA playoffs for the first time in a decade, taking a 3-2 lead in the series with the Heat.

Joe Johnson had his best game of the postseason with 25 points, and the Hawks took control during a decisive second quarter that pushed them to a 63-40 halftime lead. Flip Murray added 23 points.

Dwyane Wade had 29 points for the Heat, but banged his head on the court in the first half and didn't really get going until the game was already decided. Wade didn't get much help from his teammates. Michael Beasley had 18 points and Jermaine O'Neal 14.

Josh Smith dunked his way to 20 points for the Hawks and even hit a rare 3-pointer. The Hawks also pounded the boards, outrebounding the Heat 37-29.

Magic's Howard suspended for Game 6 against 76ers

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Dwight Howard's elbow has given the Orlando Magic's playoff hopes a major hit.

Howard has been suspended for Game 6 of the Magic's playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers for his elbow on Sixers center Samuel Dalembert, the NBA announced Wednesday.

The two got tangled up going for a rebound in the first quarter in Game 5 on Tuesday night. Replays showed Howard threw an elbow that hit Dalembert above the shoulders. Howard drew a technical foul for the hit.

NBA commissioner David Stern, who was in Orlando on Tuesday, said Wednesday in Atlanta prior to the Hawks-Miami Heat game that Howard's suspension was not only for a rule violation, but for safety precautions.

"The Dwight Howard suspension tells you the players are capable of hurting each other," Stern said. "We're there to protect the players. If you throw a punch, you're gone. If you throw an elbow above the shoulder, you're gone. If you come off the bench, you're gone.

"The whole idea is to make sure that these very large athletes playing in a relatively small place at high speeds with great power don't do harm to each other."

Howard said that was not his intention.

"I'm very disappointed but I have to respect the NBA's decision," Howard said in a statement. "I didn't intend to hurt anyone. I have complete faith in my teammates that they will come out and get the job done tomorrow night."

Stu Jackson, the NBA's executive vice president of basketball operations, said Howard would have been ejected from the game if any of the referees saw him make contact with his target. Jackson said the contact was clear cut on replay.

"They saw the elbow thrown but they couldn't determine whether or not the elbow actually made contact with Dalembert," Jackson said. "This was an elbow that was thrown that made contact above the shoulders and by rule there's an automatic suspension."

Orlando will also be without starting guard Courtney Lee, who suffered a fractured sinus after taking an inadvertent elbow to the head from Howard later in the quarter. Lee's status for the remainder of the playoffs is uncertain.

The Magic lead the Sixers 3-2 in the best-of-seven series. Game 6 is Thursday. Orlando will likely start Marcin Gortat in place of Howard, and J.J. Redick for Lee.

Howard was having the best playoff series of his career and has been the only consistent Magic player in the postseason. He had 24 points and a career playoff-high 24 rebounds in Tuesday's win, and he's averaged 24 points and 15.8 rebounds in the series.

Howard's elbow on Dalembert in Game 5 set off a wild coaching exchange afterward.

Philadelphia coach Tony DiLeo said Howard should have been called for 3 seconds in the lane several times and asked the league to look into the elbow. Jackson said he got a text message about the play almost immediately from Sixers president Ed Stefanski.

"Dwight Howard had a great game, and he's a great player, but he just lives in the 3-second lane on offense and defense," DiLeo said. "I'm just saying he's standing in the 3-second lane on offense and defense. He's a great player, and he doesn't need any advantages."

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy heard DiLeo's remarks, took the podium and defended his star center by mocking DiLeo.

"Am I supposed to come up here and talk about the game? Or am I supposed to come up here and lobby for the calls I want the next game?" Van Gundy said. "Is that what it's about now? We're supposed to lobby for the calls we want the next game? Let's just play the games.

"I guess that's the only reason Dwight's having success in this series. It has nothing to do with the fact that he's good."

NBA BRIEFS

Nets' Lawrence Frank will return next season

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Despite missing the playoffs for two straight years, Rod Thorn is convinced the New Jersey Nets are on the right road and that Lawrence Frank is the man to lead the team. Thorn announced on Wednesday that the 38-year-old Frank, who is the longest tenured coach in the Eastern Conference, will be returning for a sixth full season. "In my mind, Lawrence is a very good coach," Thorn said. "The players understand he knows what he is doing and they play hard for him." Thorn said he reached his decision on Frank's future over the past two weeks and told him on Wednesday morning. Frank has posted a 225-225 record in five-plus seasons as coach. He has a year left on a contract that was to pay him $4.5 million next season. His 225 wins are a franchise record. "We're very excited to be coming back for another year and we look forward to taking another step forward with this group," Frank said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. Frank said the wait was not tough "Working for Rod is very easy what you see is what you get, he is very, very truthful," said Frank, who said he is still disappointed after missing the playoffs. "That's what I respect, he is very honest whether it's good or bad news. He said everything was going to be evaluated and from that point on I didn't fret because there was nothing we could control. I trusted him and the process and kept doing my job."

NBA: No penalty for Rondo's hard foul on Miller

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—The NBA said Boston Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo won't be penalized for his hard foul on Chicago's Brad Miller in the closing seconds of Game 5. NBA commissioner David Stern said Wednesday night in Atlanta before the Hawks-Miami Heat game that no flagrant foul call on Rondo was the right call. "I was in Orlando, but I was reliably informed it was not a flagrant foul," Stern said. "Our referees do the best they can in these situations." As result of the NBA's position, there will be no fine or suspension for Rondo or even flagrant foul points that could lead to a suspension if they accumulate. With the Bulls trailing by two in the final seconds of overtime on Tuesday night, Miller had a clear path to the basket. But Rondo jumped and hit him across the face and the lay-in attempt sailed wide. Though Rondo made contact with Miller above the shoulders, NBA executive vice president of basketball operations Stu Jackson said the play fell short of warranting a flagrant foul. "We felt Rondo was making a basketball play and going for the ball after a blown defensive assignment by the Celtic team," Jackson said.

Reds end Astros' streak with 3-0 win

CINCINNATI (AP)—Edinson Volquez ended the longest current streak of domination in the majors by allowing only one hit through eight innings Wednesday night, leading Cincinnati to a 3-0 victory over Houston.

The Astros had won their last 11 games at Great American Ball Park since late in the 2007 season, the best such streak in franchise history. They had won 16 of 17 in Cincinnati over the last three years.

Giants 9, Dodgers 4

At San Francisco, Tim Lincecum allowed six hits and struck out eight while pitching into the eighth inning, and Bengie Molina drove in four runs for San Francisco.

Molina had a homer, a two-run triple and an RBI single among San Francisco's 15 hits, while Edgar Renteria had four hits and drove in two runs as the Giants took two of three from the first-place Dodgers.

Nationals 4, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Scott Olsen pitched into the sixth inning and Washington's beleaguered bullpen held on to snap Philadelphia's five-game winning streak.

Olsen (1-3) allowed one run and six hits, striking out six. The left-hander shut down an offense that scored 33 runs in the previous three games, including 20 against the Nationals, who have the worst record in the majors at 5-15.

Cardinals 5, Braves 3

At Atlanta, Adam Wainwright overcame five walks and drove in a run during a four-run fifth inning for St. Louis.

The Cardinals won two of three in the series against the Braves, who have scored three runs or fewer in 11 of 15 games after scoring at least four runs in each of their first six games.

Brewers 1, Pirates 0

At Milwaukee, Yovani Gallardo struck out a career-high 11 and homered in the seventh inning as Milwaukee got its 15th straight win over the Pirates.

The Brewers' string against Pittsburgh started last May. It's the longest winning streak by one team over another since Oakland beat Seattle 15 straight times in 2006.

Marlins 4, Mets 3

At New York, Cody Ross hit a two-run single off J.J. Putz in the eighth inning, Jorge Cantu cracked his third homer in two games and the Florida Marlins rallied to beat the New York Mets.

Matt Lindstrom escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth by getting pinch-hitter Omir Santos on a game-ending pop-up. In a curious move by Mets manager Jerry Manuel, the inexperienced Santos batted for fellow catcher and right-handed hitter Ramon Castro, who had two hits and an RBI.

Rockies 7, Padres 5

At Denver, Aaron Cook pitched seven strong innings for his first win of the season and Todd Helton and Chris Iannetta each drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies beat the San Diego Padres.

Adrian Gonzalez homered twice for San Diego, which fell behind 7-0 and lost for the fourth time in five games. His seventh career multihomer game pushed his April total to nine, a Padres record for the month.

Diamondbacks 10, Cubs 0

At Phoenix, Doug Davis allowed two hits over seven innings while Chad Tracy and Justin Upton each drove in three runs in the Arizona Diamondbacks' rout of the Chicago Cubs.

Davis (2-3) struck out seven, walked three and hit a batter.

Tracy had three hits, including a two-run double and a solo home run. Upton brought three more home with a double in Arizona's five-run seventh inning. The Cubs walked 10, eight in the last two innings, including three with the bases loaded.

Royals 11, Blue Jays 3

At Kansas City, Mo., Zack Greinke gave up an earned run for the first time in 43 innings, but Billy Butler backed him with two homers and Kansas City had 11 extra-base hits in a rout of Toronto.

Vernon Wells' RBI single with two outs in the first produced the first earned run off Greinke (5-0) since last September, a span of six starts. After throwing complete-game shutouts his two previous starts, Grienke went seven innings, allowing five hits and two runs with two walks and eight strikeouts. He leads the AL with 44 strikeouts.

Yankees 8, Tigers 6

At Detroit, Nick Swisher hit two homers and Joba Chamberlain gave up a run in seven innings to lead New York.

The Yankees won two straight in Detroit by a combined score of 19-6 after losing the series opener and three in a row at Boston for a season-high four-game skid.

Swisher hit a three-run homer in the seven-run fourth and added a solo shot in the fifth, giving him a team-high seven home runs.

Red Sox 6, Indians 5, 10 innings

At Cleveland, Jonathan Van Every hit his first major league home run in the 10th inning to cap Boston's comeback win.

Van Every, who played in the Indians' minor league system from 2000-07, hit a 1-1 pitch from Jensen Lewis (2-3) to center with two outs. Van Every had an RBI single during Boston's three-run rally in the eighth.

Twins 8, Rays 3

At Minneapolis, Nick Blackburn breezed through seven innings, and Minnesota roughed up Scott Kazmir from the start.

Blackburn (2-1) gave up two runs and eight hits and Justin Morneau had three hits, a walk and an RBI for the Twins, who took two of three from the defending AL champions.

Angels 3, Orioles 2

At Baltimore, Torii Hunter and Kendry Morales hit consecutive homers off Koji Uehara in the seventh inning and Shane Loux earned his first win since 2003 as Los Angeles swept the two-game series.

Uehara left in the seventh after being struck in the chest by a line drive off the bat of Gary Matthews Jr. After falling to his knees, Baltimore's first Japanese-born player slowly rose to his feet and walked off the field.

White Sox 6, Mariners 3

At Chicago, Slumping Carlos Quentin and Jermaine Dye hit consecutive home runs in the seventh inning, leading the Chicago White Sox over the Seattle Mariners.

A.J. Pierzynski also homered as the White Sox rallied from a 3-1 deficit and avoided what would have been their first losing April since 2001.

Report: Book says A-Rod may have juiced in HS

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez may have been using steroids when he was a highly touted high school player and was suspected of using performance-enhancers while playing for the New York Yankees, according to a soon-to-be-released book.

The Daily News reported in Thursday's edition that *Sports Illustrated* writer Selena Roberts' upcoming book "A-Rod" offers an unflattering portrait of the MVP slugger as a needy personality who wanted his ego stroked constantly.

The paper doesn't say how it obtained a copy of the Harper Collins book, scheduled to be released on May 12.

A high school teammate of A-Rod's told Roberts that the future No. 1 draft pick was on steroids as a prep player and his coach knew it—an allegation the coach, Rich Hoffman, denied.

Rodriguez has admitted to using performance-enhancers while with the Texas Rangers but insists he gave up the habit when he was traded to the Yankees in 2004.

In the book, however, an unnamed major leaguer is quoted as saying A-Rod and former Yankees pitcher Kevin Brown, who was named in the Mitchell Report, were seen together with human growth hormone—or HGH—in 2004.

Oceania caging draws support from McDonald's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan has joined the bandwagon of private companies supporting Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands' hosting of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament next month.

McDonald's Saipan owner Joe Ayuyu yesterday handed over a check worth $2,000 to BANMI officials with the former hoping the donation could somehow help defray the cost for holding the Oceania caging here.

"It has been my personal commitment to help any organization promoting sports among the youth, so despite these tough times, the staff and management of McDonald's always try to find ways to give financial assistance to sports organizations, such as BANMI," Ayuyu said.

"I wish I could give more, and so do other companies. I am encouraging members of the business community to help out in this endeavor. It is not only BANMI that is hosting this event, it's the whole CNMI. Let us show our commitment to sports and be a gracious host to other basketball teams in the region," Ayuyu added.

The Oceania caging, which will run from June 20 to 28 will feature the men's and women's teams of Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Palau, Guam, Fiji, and Tahiti.

Next month's tournament will be the biggest regional caging event that the Commonwealth will be hosting. The last time the CNMI hosted a basketball tournament was in 2006 during the Micronesian Games.

Ayuyu expressed his excitement over seeing powerhouse teams from Australia and New Zealand play on the CNMI hard court.

"I am thrilled to have these top-caliber players going up against our CNMI National teams. I am sure we will be seeing a competitive tournament. I used to be a basketball fan back in college and I am looking forward to being a fan, again next month," said Ayuyu, who was a frequent spectator of the University of Hawaii Warriors games.

Ayuyu handed the donation to BANMI president Elias Rangamar, secretary general Michael A. White, and Gabriel White in a brief ceremony at McDonald's Middle Road branch.

"We are pleased that McDonald's never ceased to extend its helping hands to sports organizations despite these trying times. We are very thankful to Mr. Ayuyu and McDonald's commitment to help us in this hosting job," Rangamar said.

"Local organizers cannot do this (hosting) alone, we need all the help we can get from both the public and private sectors," Rangamar added.

Besides McDonald's, two other companies had already thrown in their support to BANMI's hosting of the Oceania caging. They are Joeten Charitable Foundation and Tan Holdings.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

McDonald's Saipan owner Joe Ayuyu presents his company's $2,000 donation to BANMI officials for the group's hosting of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament next month. The presentation was made yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road branch.

ERRATUM

Ol'Aces so far is the only team to beat Patriots this year in the Junior League Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League and not the D'9ers as mistakenly reported in the story "Patriots take top spot in playoffs" that was published last April 28. Our apologies.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	7	.667	-
Toronto	15	8	.652	-
New York	11	10	.524	3
Baltimore	9	13	.409	5 1/2
Tampa Bay	8	14	.364	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	11	9	.550	-
Detroit	11	10	.524	1/2
Kansas City	11	10	.524	1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	1
Cleveland	8	14	.364	4

West Division

Seattle	12	9	.571	-
Texas	10	10	.500	1 1/2
Los Angeles	9	11	.450	2 1/2
Oakland	7	11	.389	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	13	8	.619	-
Philadelphia	11	9	.550	1 1/2
Atlanta	10	11	.476	3
New York	9	12	.429	4
Washington	5	15	.250	7 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	15	7	.682	-
Cincinnati	11	10	.524	3 1/2
Milwaukee	11	10	.524	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	11	10	.524	3 1/2
Chicago	10	10	.500	4
Houston	9	13	.409	6

West Division

Los Angeles	14	8	.636	-
San Diego	11	10	.524	2 1/2
San Francisco	10	10	.500	3
Arizona	9	12	.429	4 1/2
Colorado	8	12	.400	5

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 0
Florida 4, N.Y. Mets 3
Colorado 7, San Diego 5
Arizona 10, Chicago Cubs 0
Washington 4, Philadelphia 1
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 3
Cincinnati 3, Houston 0
San Francisco 9, L.A. Dodgers 4
L.A. Angels 3, Baltimore 2
Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 3
N.Y. Yankees 8, Detroit 6
Boston 6, Cleveland 5, 10 innings
Oakland at Texas, ppd., Rain
Minnesota 8, Tampa Bay 3
Kansas City 11, Toronto 3

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

LITTLE LEAGUE STANDINGS

Major Division

Ol'Aces	10	0
Hustlers	9	2
Jets	8	2
Red Sox	8	2
Dragons	7	3
Little Lions	6	4
Survivors	5	5
Braves	5	5
Century A's	4	7
Little Falcons	2	8
Twins	2	8
JPO Enforcers	2	8
Shell	2	8
IT&E	1	9

BUDWEISER SML STANDINGS

Ford Rangers	7	1
Rock Steady	6	2
D-9ers	6	2
IT&E Young Guns	4	5
Tanapag Falcons	4	6
O'Conner Tigers	2	6
Korean Phoenix	0	7

TIGERS

From Page 36

failed to complement Mafnas' impressive pitching performance with a good offense.

Behind by four runs after two innings, 2-6, D-9ers tallied only two runs in the next six innings. In the top of the last inning, D9-ers needed to score at least three runs to extend the game.

The first two batters were thrown out on a fly out and a violation at the batter's box. Santos walked third batter Robert Bansil, who later reached home plate on a Mel Sakisat single to keep D-9ers' hopes alive.

First baseman Jonathan Tenorio batted fourth and singled, sending Sakisat to second base. With runners on first and second and with two outs, Acosta, who was 0-for-4 in his previous at bat, stepped up to the plate and made a grounder. But Tigers shortstop Mel Manahane picked up the ball and threw to first base to end the game.

The victory avenged the Tigers' 9-14 loss to D-9ers in their first meeting in the regular season on March 6.

With the defeat, D-9ers now share second place with defending champion Rock Steady.

Young Guns 5, Falcons 1

Last Friday's game saw Harry Nakamura recording eight strikeouts in a no-relief job to lift IT&E Young Guns to a 5-1 win over the Tanapag Falcons.

The Falcons made it to the scoreboard in the top of the first inning on a J.R. Suel one-run single. But it was all Nakamura and Young Guns' show in the next eight innings.

Centerfielder and reigning MVP Tyrone Omar, who gave the Young Guns their lone run in the first inning, went 2-for-3 in his next appearances at the plate and added two more runs. His triple at the bottom of the fifth inning drove Joel Satur home and Omar nailed his third run in the game on a Ton Palacios single.

The Young Guns logged their two other runs at the bottom of the seventh with Omar on the scoring end, anew on a stolen base and Satur reaching home on a Falcons error.

With the win, the Young Guns improved to a 4-6 record for third place, bumping off the Falcons (4-6). The Ford Rangers are leading the league with a 7-1 slate, while the Korean Phoenix is at the bottom of the team standings with a dismal 0-7 mark.

LOCAL

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local XTERRA to finish on top of the 20 to 24 age group.

Matt Mancao finished second with a total time of 4:14:16, followed by Federico Fernandez (4:21:56), Tinian's Joshua Manglona (4:27:23), and Japan's Akio Matsuura (4:30:25).

Three other Saipan triathletes dominated their respective age groups, outracing offisland participants.

Manny Sitchon topped the men's 50 to 54 age group after submitting 4:24:28. He posted 41:10 in the swim race, 2:05:36 in the bike portion, and 1:36:42 in the run leg to down Japan's Terukazu Shibata (5:16:32).

The Top 3 spots in the 55 to 59 age group all went to Saipan triathletes with Florian Braig leading the way. Braig logged 4:02:49 following his 39:18, 1:54:32, and 1:29:09 times in the swim-bike-run legs. Joshua Berger finished second, tallying 4:20:43, while Fred Camacho checked in at third, recording 4:32:15. Japan's Haruyuki Tsuji came in fourth, posting 5:23:26.

Ronald Villafria won the all-Saipan race in the 30 to 34 age group, outclassing Brad Ruszala. Villafria completed the event in 4:08:22 against Ruszala's 4:36:30.

In the 35 to 39 age group, Spain's Albert Anton defeated three Saipan triathletes. Anton clocked in at 3:43:56 to beat Lewie Tenorio (3:49:16), Nate Hawley (3:59:41), and Kevin Carey (4:02:03). Japan's Shigemasa Uda finished fourth with a time of 4:26:57).

Japan-based Ben Distel stunned Saipan bet Tyce Mister in a close race in the men's 40 to 44 age group. Distel crossed the finish line at the 3:42:28 mark, about three minutes ahead of Mister (3:45:50). Kayaki Yokoyama and Shogo Ando timed in at 4:24:01 and 4:26:12 to place third and fourth, respectively.

In the women's division, the age group winners were Masami Okada (25 to 29/4:05:43), Melanie Daly (40 to 44/5:01:39), Julia Lendvai (45 to 49/4:35:44), and Hiroshi Kishibe (50 to 54/3:59:46).

KIWIS

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played in Auckland just a few days after the Oceania Basketball Tournament.

The Kiwis have strong national teams, with the Tall Blacks (the national men's team) ranked 14th in the world, and the Tall Ferns (the national women's team) ranked 16th.

The Tall Ferns qualified for and competed in the 2008 Olympics at Beijing, and both the men's and the women's teams are regular top threats at the FIBA World Championships.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar commented, "This is an indication of how seriously New Zealand is taking this tournament. They want to beat all of the other countries, especially Australia. I'm sure Australia is going to send strong teams to meet the Kiwi challenge. CNMI fans are going to get to see some great basketball, both men's and women's."

The Oceania Tournament will be held in Saipan from June 20 to June 28, 2009. Australia and New Zealand, along with Pacific basketball powerhouses New Caledonia, Fiji, Tahiti, and Guam, and the CNMI's North Pacific neighbor Palau, will send national men's and women's teams to compete with CNMI's best.

Gold sponsors for the tournament so far include CNMI business anchor Tan Holdings. Rangamar expressed his appreciation to all of the sponsors, and noted that additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament. For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Rangamar at 664-2502 or Mike White at 234-6547. ***(PR)***

THE DAY

From Page 36

up the carpet and took it home for a memento, replacing it with new carpet the next day at his own expense.

Before the team left the White House, staffers went ahead and confirmed a date for the Gators to return next year as national champions. Reportedly work has already begun on decorations.

The section of the White House lawn where HE15MAN stood during the ceremony is now officially called Tim Tebow Turf with a commemorative bronze plaque made by men who worked all night to complete it.

The portrait of Martin Van Buren that had hung in the West Wing for more than a hundred years has been replaced by a portrait of Urban Meyer. Tebow had joked to Obama that his coach would look better up there than old Van Buren. The next day Meyer's picture went up and the old president's picture came down.

After Tebow left the White House, the orange sun resumed its voyage across the blue sky.

Braves, Red Sox shutout foes

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Tanapag Braves and the Red Sox fashioned out similar easy victories over their separate rivals in the Majors Division of 2009 Saipan Little League last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Palacios Ballfield.

Ian Rogolofoi waxed hot with one of his best games of the season to lead the Braves to a 10-0 blanking off the JPO Enforcers.

Rogolofoi fired two doubles with four RBIs. He went 2-for-3 with two runs, while three of his teammates also contributed on offense.

Francisco Lieto (3-for-3, two runs, an RBI, and a triple), Roy Tudela Jr. (2-for-2, two runs, and a walk) and Herbert San Nicolas (1-for-3, 1 run, 1 RBI) also chipped in for the win.

The Braves improved to a 5-5 win-loss record, in a tie with the Survivors in seventh to eighth positions. The Enforcers fell to 2-8, same records as Little Falcons, As Matuis Twins, and Shell.

Red Sox 13, Twins 0

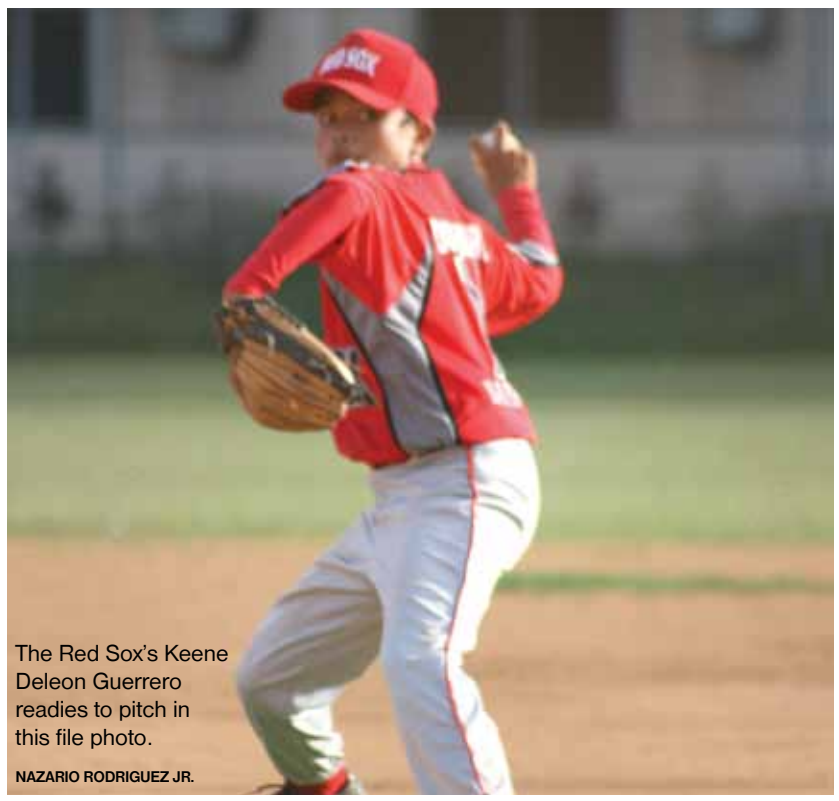
The Red Sox also scored a rousing 13-0 win over As Matuis Twins and tied the Jets in third to fourth places with similar 8-2 marks.

Nathan Sablan and Bret Halstead posted identical 2-for-2 performances at the plate with two runs and two RBIs each.

Little Lions 17, Little Falcons 6

Kagman Little Lions gored Little Falcons, 12-6, to stay in solo sixth with a 6-4 card.

Francisco Palacios led the Lions with a 3-for-3 stint at the plate and had four runs and an RBI triple. Jesus Santos added four runs, two RBIs, and a double after connecting on two hits in three times at bat.



The Red Sox's Keene Deleon Guerrero readies to pitch in this file photo.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

CNMI National track meet tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will be holding the 2009 CNMI National Track and Field Championship tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex.

NMA is encouraging CNMI athletes to compete in the championship, as this will also serve as a qualifying tournament for four off-island events.

"This track and field meet shall serve as a qualifying event for anyone interested in representing the CNMI in the Oceania Regional Championships 2009 in Gold Coast, Australia, the Mini Pacific Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, the World Youth Championships in Italy, and the IAAF World Championships in Germany," NMA said in a press statement.

The tournament in Australia will be held from Aug. 4 to 6 and is dubbed as Mini Oceania Championships, as this will feature member-countries from Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

The CNMI is allowed to send seven athletes in Australia. Originally, the Commonwealth is set to compete in the Micronesian Athletics Championships in Palau in December. But to save funds, Oceania Athletics Association consolidated the Micronesian meet with the Polynesia and Melanesia tournaments into one, giving birth to the Oceania Regional Championships 2009.

NMA is also considering sending representatives to the Mini Games, which Cook Islands will be hosting late September. World Youth Championships in Sudtirol, Italy is set from July 8 to 12, while the world championship in Berlin will run from Aug. 15 to 23.

The CNMI is entitled to one entry each in the tournaments in Italy and Germany.

Besides joining qualifying tournaments, CNMI athletes must also meet eligibility requirements to earn a trip to these off-island events.

In 2007, sprinters Yvonne Bennett and Tyrone Omar represented the Commonwealth to the world championships in Osaka, Japan, while Jesus Iguel competed in the world youth championship in Bydgoszcz, Poland last year.

Meanwhile, this Saturday's tournament will begin at 8am. Participants are encouraged to be at the track and field facility an hour before the start of the race for registration.

For more information, contact Allen Moses at 287-4907 or Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Students are seen here competing in the 1,500m qualifying tournament for the 2009 McDonald's All Schools meet at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility early this month. This Saturday, NMA will be holding the 2009 CNMI National Championship which will also be a qualifier for four off-island events.

Sweep for D'Pirates, Hustlers take lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

D'Pirates Huwa swept BwiiBwi's Da Snipers, 7-0, Tuesday night at Jonny's Bar to keep the lead in the Obyan Division of the 2009 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

Delivering the victories for D'Pirates were Jess Pangelinan, Ray Basa, Tero and Ray Takai, and Simeon Kapileo.

D'Pirates now have a 48-22 record, for a nine-game lead over the Perfect Spotters, who also won Tuesday night, downing USS Fotten Palau, 5-2.

The Perfect Spotters improved to a 39-31 slate after going 3-for-5 in singles matches and sweeping two doubles games.

USSP Fotten Palau dropped to third with a 38-32 mark and tied BwiiBwi's Shark Attack. In fifth place is USSP Wat-Ever (34-36), followed by D'Pirates 8 Ballers (31-39), BwiiBwi's Da Snipers (29-41), and VFW Warriors (23-47).

Shark Attack forced a tie for third with Fotten Palau after outclassing 8 Ballers, 5-2. Shark Attack claimed three singles wins and two doubles matches.

Also winning on Tuesday night's was USSP Wat-Ever, which slipped past VFW Warriors, 4-3. USSP Wat-Ever was 3-for-5 in the singles games and secured the win after splitting the doubles matches.

In the Agingan Division, the Docomo Hustlers grabbed the lead after walloping Wild Wild West, 6-1.

Going into Tuesday's game, the Hustlers were a win behind erstwhile leader Voyagers, as the latter held a 38-18 slate against the former's 37-19 mark.

But Voyagers were relegated to second place when they won by only a point against Utopia Mix Aces, 4-3. Voyagers now have a 42-21 slate against the Hustlers 43-20 record.

Senen Pangilinan, Jerry Soriano, Robert Sanciangco, and Joemer Enriquez gave the Hustlers the needed win to take the top spot in the seven-team field.

In other results on April 21, Billy Bones Home Boys tripped Wild Wild West, 4-3, while the other game Tuesday night saw Snicker 8 Ball Knights thumping Billy Bones Bad Boyz, 5-2.

Home Boyz moved up to third place with their 32-24 record, followed by Mix Acers (31-35), 8 Ball Knights (26-27), Wild Wild West (20-36), and Bad

Top Pool Bar opens 8-ball tournament

Top Pool Bar will be holding open 8-ball tournaments every Saturday at the Garapan watering hole and sports bar.

Dubbed simply as the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, the competition will adopt a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players each week.

Top Pool Bar manager Zheng Jian Qing set the entrance fee at $10 with the tournament utilizing the rules of the Billiards Congress of America.

He said players are free to practice at the venue between 7pm to 8pm. A standard 9 1/2-by-5-foot table with new carpet will be used.

Giveaways will be given throughout the tournament by Budweiser.

"Come down and test your skills against the island's best," said Zheng.

Top Pool Bar, located along Hotel Street and a stone's throw away from the Paseo de Marianas, is as spacious as it is modern and boasts of two pool tables usually found in professional tournaments abroad.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676 or check out the competition's website at www.saipanero.com/bars/toppoolbar. ***(PR)***

Hyatt F&B holds bowling tourney

Hyatt Regency Saipan's food & beverage department held a bowling tournament last weekend to promote a healthy lifestyle and teambuilding among its staff.

With F&B director Ranjeet Rajebhosale and F&B assistant director Michael Wilson looking on, the team led by tournament "king of the lanes" Zenn Tomokane won the championship.

Tomokane's team finished with a total of 693 pitfalls to edge the runner-up team led by "queen of the lanes" Liza De Torres, which was good only for 618 pinfalls.

The Hyatt Regency F&B bowling tourney was organized by Darnel Metran with Paul Gatica serving as "chef of the committee.*" (Saipan Tribune)*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The champions of Hyatt Regency Saipan's food & beverage department bowling tournament pose with F&B director Ranjeet Rajebhosale and F&B assistant director Michael Wilson.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"King of the lanes" Zenn Tomokane and "queen of the lanes" Liza De Torres receive their prizes from F&B director Ranjeet Rajebhosale and F&B assistant director Michael Wilson.

Nuggets win their first playoff series since '94

With a little help from the hometown kid, Carmelo Anthony is finally moving on. Behind Anthony's 34 points and the floor leadership of Chauncey Billups, the Denver native who came home this season and galvanized a city and a team. **32**

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Sports

Braves, Red Sox shutout foes

Tanapag Braves and the Red Sox fashioned out similar easy victories over their separate rivals in the Majors Division of 2009 Saipan Little League last Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Palacios Ballfield. **35**

Tigers claw favored D-9ers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tigers caught a big fish in D-9ers, pulling off a 7-5 upset in their game in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko' Palacios Ballfield.

D-9ers came into the match with a 6-1 record, but after eight and a half innings they absorbed their second defeat in eight games. The Bob O'Conner Tigers claimed only their second victory in eight assignments.

Ed Santos pitched in no relief for the Tigers, striking out five, walking five, and allowing only six hits.

George Castro started for D-9ers, but was replaced by Tim Mafnas after allowing six hits and giving up six runs in two innings.

Mabel Ngirngemelas and Dave Kapileo scored for the Tigers in the first inning on errors by the D-9ers, while centerfielder Justin Reyes and second baseman Jordon Reyes reached home plate on leftfielder Dave Kapileo's single in the second. Designated hitter Manny Cabrera and rightfielder Dennis Cruz nailed the Tigers' two other runs on Justin Reyes' single and D9-ers' error, respectively.

Mafnas was steady on the mound, giving up only one run in the last six innings, striking out nine, and allowing only two hits. The Tigers got their seventh run at the bottom of the sixth with Cruz scoring on a Justin Reyes single. They preserved the win, as D-9ers

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The Tigers' Ed Santos delivers a pitch against D-9ers in the top of the seventh inning of their game in the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Local bets cruise to Tagaman win

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Quincy Johnson, shown here emerging from the swim split of the 20th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday, ruled the men's 24-and-under division of the longest-running multi-sport event in the region.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four Saipan triathletes capitalized on their familiarity with the course in last Saturday's 20th Tagaman Triathlon en route to ruling their respective age groups.

Leading the list was Quincy Johnson, who ruled the men's 24-and-under division, defeating four other participants.

Johnson, who had to borrow a bike to finish the XTERRA Saipan Championship, had no problems this time, as he cruised the familiar route to complete the road race in four hours, two minutes, 13 seconds.

He timed in at 32:22 in the 1.5-kilometer swim leg, 2:09:07 in the 60-km bike part, and 1:20:44 in the 15-km run portion to duplicate his feat in XTERRA Saipan. Johnson tallied 4:23:37 in the

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Kiwis to send top teams to Oceania tournament

Sources close to Basketball New Zealand have advised the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands that the Kiwis will be sending some of their very best to compete at the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament set here on Saipan from June 20 to 28.

Rangamar

The women's team will reportedly consist of New Zealand's 21-and-Under National Women's Team, while the men's team will consist of the last 10 players cut from the Kiwis' 19-and Under National Team.

The New Zealand men's 19-and-Under National Team will be competing in the FIBA 19-and-Under World Championships, which will be

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Oceania caging draws support from McDonald's **Page 34**

The day the earth stood still

The sun stopped over Washington, D.C. one day last week while most of Saipan was sleeping, the first report of the earth standing still since way back when Joshua asked Yahweh for some help and got it.

The Florida Gators' arrival at the While House to meet President Obama was a celestial wonder, two galaxies sliding thru each other intact, both bigger and better for having made the contact.

The While House press went gaga over meeting the college football champions and their field general, putting out a media release that read, "President Obama met Tim Tebow today" instead of "Tim Tebow met President Obama today."

When the White House staff took official photos, Obama asked for extra copies to give to his friends.

Obama said shaking Tebow's hand was the biggest thrill of his life, even more rewarding than being elected President.

Here's a transcript of Tebow and the president talking in the Oval Office:

Obama: "Would you like to use Air Force One to go to your orphanage in the Philippines? I can get it for you."

Tebow: "No thanks. I have to go back to Gainesville to donate a kidney for an 8-year-old boy."

Obama: "Oh, I see. Well then, before you go, could you give me some advice on the Middle East."

Tebow: "I wish I could, Mr. President sir, but I only know about teams in the South East."

Obama: "Great analogy, Tim! We don't really understand them and therefore we can't say anything useful. You are a genius. I am honored to have met you. Can I get another autograph … it's for my wife."

After Tebow walked down a hallway, one inside staffer ripped

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2